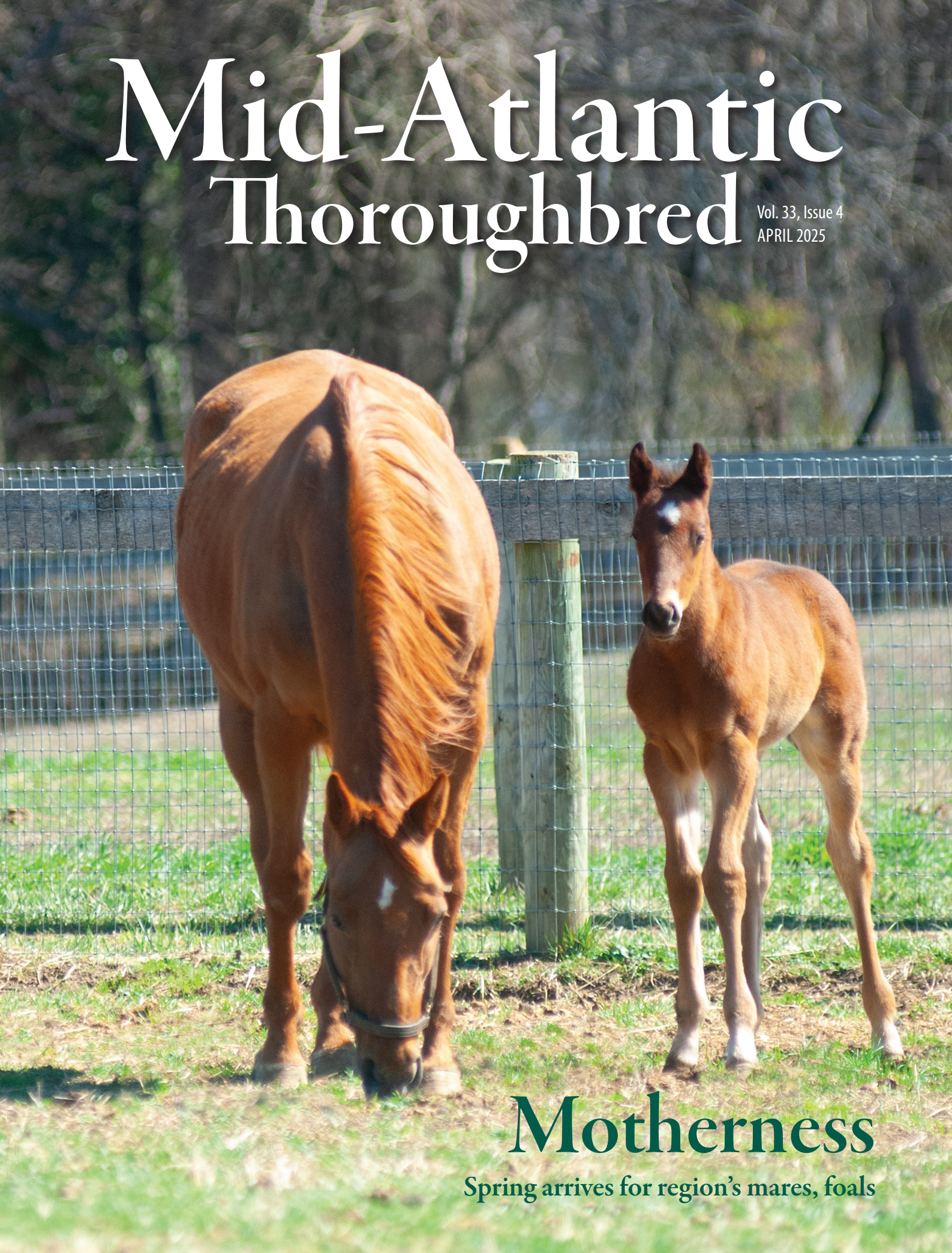
Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Vol. 33, Issue 4
APRIL 2025



Motherness

Spring arrives for region's mares, foals

COUNTRY LIFE & MERRYLAND

From Beginning to Winning

Country Life Farm stallions give Big Wins for the Small Breeder

Country Life's beautifully-bred stallions deliver big-time rewards for breeders. Congratulations to longtime Country Life client Jay Williamson for sticking with our sires. From his phenomenal mare, Parade of Colors, Jay has bred Country Life-sired winners of $1,285,143. They include his homebred Divining Rod filly STICKWITHECOLORS, winner of the March 8 Conniver S (above left), Maryland Million Classic and $569,921-earner OURNATIONONPARADE (right), and four additional winners.

Divining Rod

Tapit–Precious Kitten, by Catienus

$2,500 LFSN

Friesan Fire

A.P. Indy–Bollinger, by Dehere

$1,000 LFSN

Mosler

War Front–Gold Vault, by Arch

$2,500 LFSN

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When a Virginia-bred runs 1-2-3 in North America our breeders get paid

2024 VA-bred horse of the year DETERMINED KINGDOM earned $90,972 in VA-breeder bonuses for Audley Farm.

Virginia breeders earned

36%

of the 1st thru 3rd place purse money won in all open races in North America in 2024

LEADING 2024 BREEDER AWARDS

Morgan's Ford Farm and Partners	$254,186
Audley Farm Equine	$196,337
Smitten Farm/Anne Mudge Baker	$112,476
Chance Farm and partners	$102,786
Lazy Lane Farms, LLC	$102,726
Daybreak Stables Inc	$102,174
R. Larry Johnson	$82,278

For complete details on the Virginia-Bred and Virginia-Certified programs go to vabred.org

Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

— Set List —

The Mares of the Mid-Atlantic

Springtime means mares and foals all over the region, and time to check in with some notable broodmares. As usual, they come in every shape, size, description and background. By Joe Clancy, Sean Clancy, Tom Law, Cindy Deubler. Page 28

Raising stars in North Carolina

Nancy Shuford's mares foal in Kentucky, but the foals – including stakes-winning 3-year-old of 2025 Speed King – grow up on the farm in North Carolina. By Liane Crossley. Page 50

Trackside: Laurel Park

Henry Walters, in his fifth decade as a trainer, won two stakes with improving 3-year-old Maryland-bred Barbadian Runner. By Sean Clancy. Page 54

Maryland-breds shine at early sales

In person and online, Maryland-bred horses (led by a $1 million 2-year-old) produced strong returns via Fasig-Tipton, OBS sales. By Ali Çetinok, Joe Clancy. Page 58

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On our cover: Stakes producer Hartigan and her 2025 colt by Great Notion soak up the sun on the farm of breeders Jamie and Mandy Ness near Chesapeake City, Md. *Photo by Barrie Reightler.*

The WV BREEDERS PROGRAM OFFERS SOME OF THE BEST INCENTIVES IN THE NATION

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- The WV Thoroughbred Development Fund distributes over $4 million to breeders, owners, and sire owners of accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses each year.
- The West Virginia Breeders Classics pays out approximately $1 million in purses for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses each October.
- $800,000 is distributed annually in restricted WV stakes races for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired horses.
- Supplemental Purse Awards are distributed quarterly for up to 10% of the share of the purse to the owner, breeder, and/or sire owner for accredited WV-bred and/or -sired winners of WV races.
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6 pm

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Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred

Volume 33, Issue 4

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Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred (ISSN 1056-3245) is owned and published monthly with the exception of July by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, 321 Main Street, Reisterstown, MD 21136. (410) 252-2100; Fax (888) 616-9797. Subscription rate $36 per year. Subscription rate outside the U.S. $91 per year (surface mail), payable by U.S. money order or by bank draft payable in U.S. funds. Canadian GST No. 130277759; C.P.C. IPM No. 0956988. Subscription price included in annual membership dues to the Maryland Horse Breeders Association.

Periodicals postage paid at Lutherville-Timonium, Md. 21093 and additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred, 321 Main St., Reisterstown, MD 21136.

Single copies: $5 current issue, plus $4 postage and handling.
$15 Stallion Directory (December issue); $15 Statistical Review (March issue), plus $5 postage and handling. Maryland residents add 6% sales tax.

Mid-AtlanticThoroughbred is mailed to paid subscribers; to licensed owners and trainers in the eight-state region; and to active members of participating breeder associations in the region.

Printed by The Lane Press, Burlington, VT
Printed in the U.S.A.

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THE DAHLIA STAKES *Fillies & Mares –Three Years Old & Upward // 1 Mile // Turf*	$100,000
THE KING T. LEATHERBURY STAKES *Three Year Olds & Upward // 5 and 1/2 Furlongs // Turf*	$100,000

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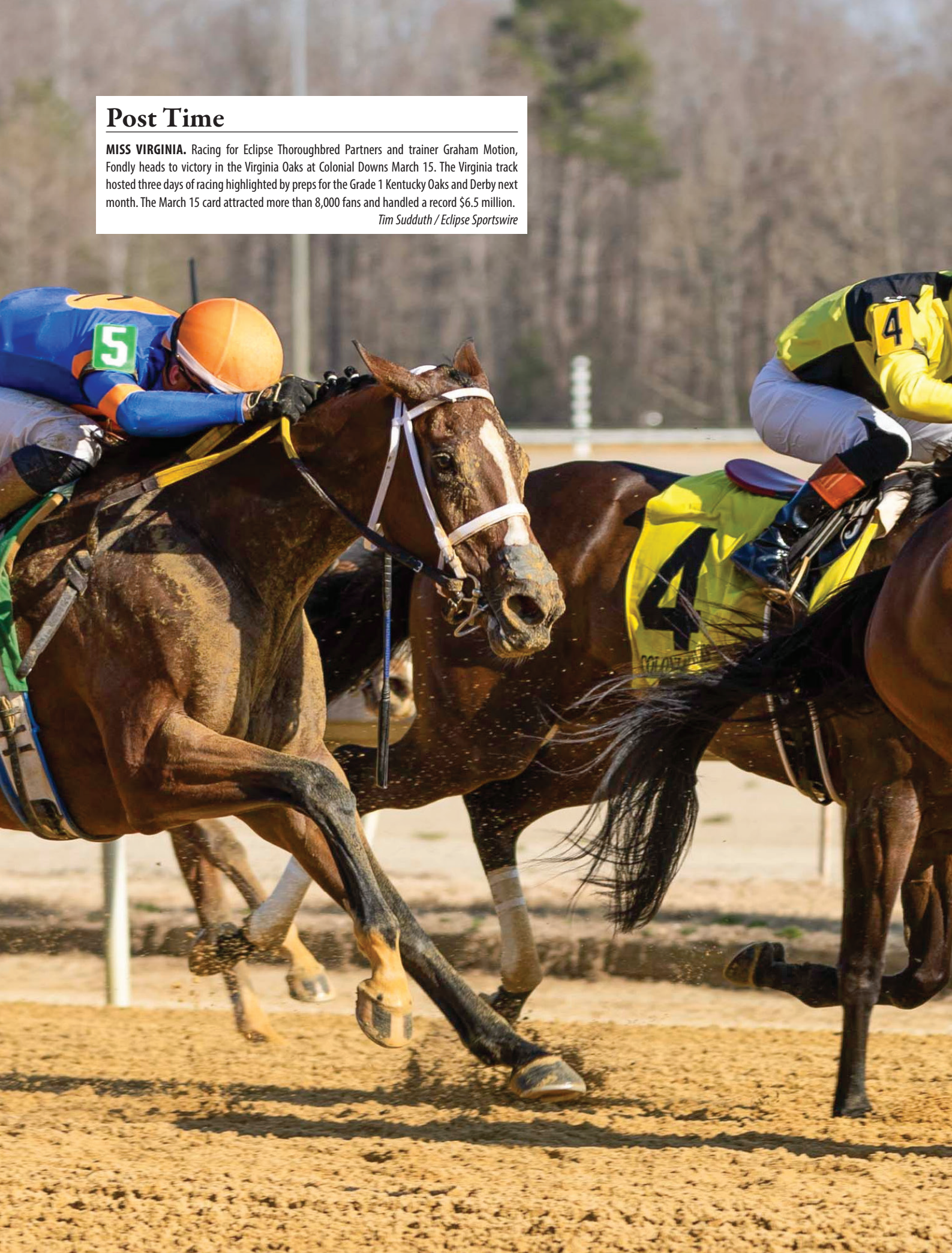
Post Time

MISS VIRGINIA. Racing for Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners and trainer Graham Motion, Fondly heads to victory in the Virginia Oaks at Colonial Downs March 15. The Virginia track hosted three days of racing highlighted by preps for the Grade 1 Kentucky Oaks and Derby next month. The March 15 card attracted more than 8,000 fans and handled a record $6.5 million.

Tim Sudduth / Eclipse Sportswire



8
JEFF RUBY'S
STEAKHOUSE
8
COLONIAL DOWNS

Say It Again

"I've been in this game probably 50 years and change. If you think, you get in trouble. You just keep firing away and hope it works."
Pennsylvania horseman Mark Reid, on aiming for success in the Thoroughbred world

"All you've got to do is have a mint. She's a mint freak."
Jay Williamson, about making friends with his broodmare Parade of Colors

Go Figure

322 Trainers accepted to the Retired Racehorse Project's 2025 Thoroughbred Makeover, with applications considered through June 27. Horse registration closes July 31 for the event at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington Oct. 8-11. The Makeover awards more than $135,000 in prize money, and is open to professionals, amateurs, juniors and teams, competing with Thoroughbreds who raced or trained to race within the past two years with no more than 15 retraining rides prior to Dec. 1, 2024.

11 Consecutive wins at Charles Town for Gran Andrews, who hasn't lost at the West Virginia track since Dec. 8, 2023. Bred in Florida, the son of Jess's Dream has won 17 of 38 lifetime starts for several trainers, but has been part of the Anthony Farrior barn since a $5,000 claim in July 2023. The Charles Town wins have all come in $5,000 starter allowance races – nine last year and two this year (Jan. 11 and Feb. 21). In that time span, he has lost four times – at Mahoning Valley (twice), Thistledown and Timonium.

14 Horses nominated to the $100,000 Maryland Hunt Cup timber stakes, North America's oldest steeplechase, as part of the early nomination process. The squad includes 2024 winner Blackhall (Ire), 2023 winner Withoutmoreado (Ire) and 16-year-old two-time winner Vintage Vinnie (Ire). West Virginia-bred Great Road and Maryland-breds Mr. Fine Threads and Road to Oz also made the list.

Names of the Month

Compiled by Ali Çetinok

My Friends Beer. What's better than your own beer? The 7-year-old Maryland-bred gelding, a 10-time winner (through March 21) originally campaigned by Designated Hitters Racing, gives a nod to his sire Stay Thirsty.

Buckin' Lucky. The 4-year-old Maryland-bred filly's name is a colorful (and risky for track announcers) nod to her sire Madefromlucky. She won three times last year.

Handsintheair. A $775,000 Saratoga yearling purchase for LNJ Foxwoods and Church Street Stable, the Maryland-bred 3-year-old daughter of Gun Runner finished fourth in her debut March 6.

Stickwiththecolors. Jay Williamson's 4-year-old filly reps her pedigree as a daughter of Divining Rod (basically a stick used to locate underground water, minerals or other hidden objects) and Parade of Colors.

BLOFELD

Getting top marks as a sire

This multiple G2-winning son of **Quality Road** holds his own against the leading stallions in the country, boasting numbers equal to some of the best stallions ever to stand in the region.

$100,776 average earnings per starter

83% winners/starters

23% stakes horses

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Twinning and Winning

Laurel Park-based 3-year-olds Onyx Ten and Barbadian Runner are not related. Just assume they've never met. But the Maryland-breds work together and carried oddly similar records in the early stages of their careers.

Through March 21, each horse had started 10 times, won three races and placed in five others. Racing for breeder Frank Sample, Onyx Ten lost her debut, won her second start, lost six in a row and opened her 3-year-old season with back-to-back stakes wins. Racing for AJ Will Win Stables, Barbadian Runner lost his debut, won his second start, lost six in a row and opened his 3-year-old season with back-to-back stakes wins.

Want more? They've run on the same race card four times – Maryland Million Day in October and Maryland Juvenile stakes starts in December last year. This year, Onyx Ten won the Xtra Heat Stakes one race before Barbadian Runner captured the Spectacular Bid Jan. 25. On Feb. 22, she landed the Wide Country and he scored in the Miracle Wood a race later. Late in 2024, they raced on back-to-back days – Onyx Ten finishing second in an allowance Dec. 27 and Barbadian Runner placing third in the Heft Stakes.

Each had earned $120,000 this year, though Barbadian Runner's $197,445 in career earnings nips her $191,065. For now, anyway.

THE RACING BIZ

The Independent Voice for Mid-Atlantic Racing and Breeding

Book'em Danno returns a winner in Boston: Grade 1-winning millionaire Book'em Danno kicked off his 4-year-old season with a near-track-record win in the Boston Handicap at Colonial Downs.

'Big, happy' Hammer leads way for Gazzier barn: Allowance-winning Hammer wins two for the family-oriented barn of Charles Town trainer Kristy Gazzier reports Ted Black.

The Cat, Her Human, and the Horse: New Jersey native Michael Greenblatt's unusual cat inspired a new children's book, *Roadrunner the Cat, Racing for Her Dreams*, about a cat who races horses. Jennifer Kelly gets the story.

Derby fever hits New Kent: Frank Vespe visited announcer Travis Stone, who called it "the best time of year," as for the first time, the road to the Kentucky Derby ran through Virginia.

Rider Castillo gets 1,000th win: Angel Castillo reached the 1,000-win milestone March 11 at Parx.

Mid-Atlantic-bred Stakes Winners

February 13 – March 12

Maryland-bred

BARBADIAN RUNNER, dk.b./br.g., 2022, Barbados—Quiet Run, by Northern Afleet. B-Shamrock Farm; O-AJ Will Win Stables; T-Henry Walters. $100,000 Miracle Wood S, Laurel, Feb. 22.

CIRCLE P, b.g., 2021, Speightster—Quiet Inferno, by Quiet American. B-Marathon Farms; O-DeSales 85; T-Flint Stites. $75,000 Not For Love S, Laurel, March 8.

MINDFRAME, dk.b./br.c., 2021, Constitution—Walk of Stars, by Street Sense. B-R. Larry Johnson; O-Repole Stable & St. Elias Stables; T-Todd Pletcher. $200,000 Gulfstream Park Mile S-G2, Gulfstream, March 1.

ONYX TEN, b.f., 2022, Street Magician—Chattolanee, by Rock Hard Ten. B/O-Frank Sample; T-Gary Capuano. $100,000 Wide Country S, Laurel, Feb. 22.

QUINT'S BREW, dk.b./br.g., 2021, Mosler—Gansett, by Jump Start. B-Paul Berube, Karen Linnell & Spinnaker Hill Farm; O-Paul Berube, Karen Linnell & Heather Hunter; T-Ned Allard. $200,000 General George S, Laurel, Feb. 15.

SPEEDYNESS, b.g., 2021, Great Notion—Hartigan, by Include. B-Jagger Inc.; O-Morris Kernan Jr. & Jagger Inc.; T-Jamie Ness. $100,000 John B. Campbell S, Laurel, Feb. 15.

STICKWITHTHECOLORS, ch.f., 2021, Divining Rod—Parade of Colors, by Leading the Parade. B/O-John E. Williamson III; T-John Salzman Jr. $75,000 Conniver S, Laurel, March 8.

Pennsylvania-bred

BABY DUKES, b.g., 2022, Maximus Mischief—Flatter's Secret, by Flatter. B-Dr. & Mrs. William Riddle Jr.; O-Cash is King & LC Racing; T-Robert Reid Jr. $75,000 City of Brotherly Love S, Parx, March 4.

There's a warrant out there for your mare!

WARRANT

Constitution–Whisper Number, by First Samurai

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CONSTITUTION (TAPIT)

CONSTITUTION is a TOP 5 Leading Sire in North America for 2024, second leading sire of 2YOs in North America for 2023 (to Justify), is the sire of 2024 TOP 5 freshman sire **TIZ THE LAW** (from his first crop) and is sire of **AMERICANREVOLUTION**, the top-booking stallion in New York for 2024. In his first season at stud, **WARRANT** was the top-booking stallion in PA in 2024. The only Constitution at stud in the region.

WARRANT earned $1.1 million in three seasons. On the board in 17 of 19 starts, winning from 6 fur. to 1½ miles, with 11 stakes wins or placings at classic distances, including G1 Santa Anita H (recorded a 104 Beyer), G2 Brooklyn S, G3 Oklahoma Derby, G3 Louisiana S, G3 West Virginia Derby, and G3 Prairie Meadow Cornhusker.

$4,500 LFSN

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New Thoroughbred 'league' comes to Pimlico, Parx

By Ali Çetinok

Sports thrive on innovation and evolution. Professional football, baseball, basketball and hockey leagues all faced moments in their histories where they had to adapt and modernize or risk fading into irrelevance.

Whether it was football's merger of the AFL and NFL in the 1960s, Major League Baseball's embrace of inter-league play, analytics and rule changes, the NBA's expansion into a global brand or the NHL's expansion from its original six teams and the more-recent creation of outdoor stadium games, change always drove progress.

Even Thoroughbred racing has seen massive shifts. Tracks once thrived as the primary gambling outlets in the United States, but casinos, account wagering, online gambling, sports betting, and fantasy sports forced the industry to rethink how it engages fans. The Kentucky Derby, the Breeders' Cup and similar race days remain marquee events, but day-to-day racing struggles to attract new audiences.

Enter the National Thoroughbred League – a concept designed to introduce a team-based format, turn race days into full-scale entertainment events and leverage star power. Much like the NBA's embrace of global marketing or the NFL's expansion into year-round engagement, the NTL isn't just looking to preserve horse racing – it's looking to reshape it for the modern sports fan.

Launched in early 2023, the league will bring its model to Maryland's Pimlico Race Course May 10 and Pennsylvania's Parx Racing in June. These events mark a step in the league's expansion and could help shape the future of the sport in the Mid-Atlantic.

The NTL creates teams representing cities to add fan loyalty to a sport that generally lacks it, while aiming to attract younger, more engaged spectators.

"The goal of the league is to create a team-based racing concept," said Ed Pugh, a Pennsylvania-based Thoroughbred owner who became involved with the NTL and its franchise in Philadelphia and now plays a key role in its operations. "I'm not a Formula One fan, but I know we're trying to follow the Formula One model."

Fans of Formula One auto racing follow individual drivers such as Max Verstappen, but also keep track of teams representing McLaren, Mercedes, Honda, Ferrari and others.

The NTL is structured around 10 teams: the Maryland Colts, Philadelphia Stallions, New York Knights, Miami Sea Horses, California Shamrocks, New Jersey Degens, San Francisco Unicorns, Phoenix Mustangs, Nashville Dreams and Seattle Gems. The goal is to create a system where fans can follow teams throughout the season, just as they would in other professional sports.

In a sign of growth and potential, the final event in the three-part 2024 NTL Cup Series Championship Cup, won by the Philadelphia Stallions, produced strong returns for host track Turf Paradise in Phoenix, Ariz., in December. The finale followed stops at Kentucky Downs near Nashville, Tenn., in August and Parx Racing outside Philadelphia, Pa., in October.

The nine-race Turf Paradise event ahead of the Fiesta Bowl college football game produced the largest attendance at the meet and $3.1 million in bets, with the three NTL Championship races responsible for more than $1.7 million. This was the largest handle for Turf Paradise this decade, and combined with betting carryovers for the following day, resulted in the largest betting totals for Turf Paradise this century.

"If you think about the teams and how that could benefit racing, benefit the NTL, and also the tracks we're working with, we got over 3,000 paid attendees at Turf Paradise in our last event," Pugh said. "What I liked about the progression is that at Parx, we had a little more people but less handle –

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we were somewhere between $1.6 million and $1.8 million."

This year's Pimlico and Parx events are expected to build on that momentum. The NTL tries to make each event a destination for fans and first-time racegoers as a race day could feature celebrity appearances, concerts, fan-engagement activities, and social-media-driven content.

"In Nashville, Tanya Tucker is a celebrity owner," Pugh said of the country-music star. "For our Turf Paradise event, the day before the actual running of the NTL races, there was a golf event for VIPs and quite a few ex-NFL players."

Also at Turf Paradise, stakes races were named for Fiesta Bowl teams Boise State and Penn State, and the grass in front of the tote board was painted blue in honor of Boise State's home field.

The approach modernizes racing events, making them more appealing to younger people while maintaining the excitement of the sport and using the power of influence through celebrity team owners and ambassadors. Such names bring credibility, excitement, and – most importantly – a new audience to the sport.

Notable figures involved in the NTL include two-time NFL MVP and Baltimore Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson, NBA Hall of Famer and former Philadelphia 76er Julius Erving, Grammy-winning rapper Nelly, New York Giants linebacker Kayvon Thibodeaux and music legend Tucker.

Such names attract sports fans and pop-culture audiences who may have never considered attending a horse race. Celebrity engagement builds relationships between fans and the NTL, aiming to make racing more than a one-time experience. In addition, the NTL funds purses for its races which helps tracks buy into the idea.

"You won't be able to find a better, more recognized sports figure in this area than Lamar Jackson," said David Richardson, executive director of the Maryland Thoroughbred Horsemen's Association. "I've heard great things from the guys at Parx. They had a very positive experience with the NTL, and from what I've seen, there doesn't seem to be any downside for us. They're paying for the right to host the races, covering the purses – it's just something different."

The Philadelphia Cup, the second event in last year's series, attracted 4,260 to Parx – double original estimates – and produced $1.6 million in handle, 50 percent higher than forecast with purses of NTL-funded races higher than the average.

This added prize money provides an incentive for horsemen, who may otherwise hesitate to participate in a non-traditional format. The NTL hopes to add team-based wagering as perhaps the most exciting innovation in its playbook, along with multi-event betting tournaments where fans could compete for large prizes.

"How do we implement team-based gambling?" Pugh said. "You could have simple things like, 'Hey, I'm going to do a three-team box in this event and try to hit two of the top three at the end.' I'd like to create multi-event tournaments where let's say, you have $200 or $300, and half goes toward your live bankroll while the other half goes toward a tournament."

While team-based gambling won't be introduced until at least 2026, it remains a key part of the league's vision.

"Our focus for this year is four events instead of three, each with three NTL-funded races," Pugh said. "Our goal is to expand to eight events in 2026. We're looking at locations strategically based on purse structures and opportunities."

For now, the NTL is taking a measured approach to growth, ensuring it doesn't expand too quickly.

"The biggest mistake any new business makes is growing too fast when they're not ready," Pugh said. ■

EST. 2019

SAFE BET PROGRAM

Dear Breeder,

Breeding to a fourth-year stallion is a bet on early racetrack success—one that can be highly rewarding.

In 2024, our freshman sire Thousand Words delivered, siring a Saratoga graded stakes winner among other top performers. Breeders who supported him through the Safe Bet Program bred at a $5,000 fee, with built-in protection. Following his strong start, his 2025 fee rose to $12,500.

Not all stallions hit early, but Safe Bet provides risk protection. In 2025, we extend this program to four freshman stallions with promising credentials, each standing for $5,000 S&N. **If any fails to sire a graded black-type winner from their first two-year-olds, participating breeders will owe no stud fee for their 2026 foal.**

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Milestones

Hired

In February by the Maryland Jockey Club, former Thistledown track superintendent John Banno, as director of racing surfaces. He brings more than 30 years of industry experience to the role and will oversee maintenance of the dirt surfaces at Laurel Park, Pimlico Race Course, and the future training center at Shamrock Farm. Born and raised in northeast Ohio, Banno started working at Thistledown as a truck driver and heavy equipment operator before being named track superintendent in 2003. In addition to managing the racing surface at Thistledown, Banno was also responsible for maintaining compliance and contractor relations with the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture. Laurel Park also named Danny Finke as track superintendent. He served as interim track superintendent before the promotion.

Named

As a finalist for induction to Thoroughbred Racing's Hall of Fame for the first time, Pennsylvania-bred racehorse **Smarty Jones**. Bred and campaigned by Roy and Pat Chapman's Someday Farm, Smarty Jones won the 2004 Kentucky Derby-G1 and Preakness Stakes-G1 en route to the Eclipse Award as champion 3-year-old for trainer John Servis. The son of Elusive Quality and the Smile mare I'll Get Along won his first eight starts including two at Philadelphia Park (now Parx Racing) as a 2-year-old. He went on to win the Count Fleet, Southwest, Rebel and Arkansas Derby-G2 before sweeping the first two legs of the Triple Crown. Just the second horse to enter the Belmont Stakes-G1 undefeated (after Seattle Slew), Smarty Jones finished second to Birdstone before a record crowd of 120,000. He was retired that summer with earnings of $7,613,155. Smarty Jones was joined as a first-time finalist by 2012 and 2013 female sprint champion **Groupie Doll** and trainer **Kenny McPeek,** who trained Thorpedo Anna to a Horse of the Year crown in 2024 while also winning the Kentucky Derby with Mystik Dan. McPeek has won 2,101 races and trained the earners of more than $134 million, 18th all-time, through mid-March. Other finalists included horses **Blind Luck, Game On Dude, Havre de Grace, Kona Gold, Lady Eli** and **Rags to Riches**; trainers **Christophe Clement, Kiaran McLaughlin,** Maryland-based **Graham Motion, Doug O'Neill, John Sadler,** and **John Shirreffs**; and jockey **Jorge Chavez**. Hall of Fame voters may select as many candidates as they believe are worthy of induction. All candidates who receive 50 percent plus one vote (majority approval) from the voting panel will be elected to the Hall of Fame. Finalists were required to receive a minimum of nine votes from the 14-member nominating committee to qualify for the ballot. Results will be announced April 24 with the ceremony set for Aug. 1 in Saratoga Springs, N.Y. To be eligible, trainers must be licensed for 25 years, while jockeys must be licensed for 20 years. Thoroughbreds are required to be retired for five calendar years. All candidates must have been active within the past 25 years. Candidates who have not been active within the past 25 years are eligible through the Historic Review process.

Recorded

For the first time in the United States since data has been kept, a racing-related fatality rate below 1.00 per 1,000 starts for a calendar year in statistics released by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority in February. A more-detailed annual report was expected in March, but 47 racetracks in 19 states operating under HISA rules recorded an aggregate racing-related fatality rate of 0.90 per 1,000 starts, an approximate 27-percent decrease from the 1.23 rate reported by HISA in 2023 and a 55-percent decrease from when The Jockey Club's Equine Injury Database began reporting fatalities in 2009 at a rate of 2.00. HISA's Racetrack Safety Program, implemented July 1, 2022, and its Anti-Doping and Medication Control Program, implemented May 22, 2023, have strengthened safety measures nationwide by implementing uniform rules that embody best-practice standards. Key requirements include expanded veterinary

2025 ROSTER

Americanrevolution*
Constitution - Polly Freeze

Chewing Gum NEW
Candy Ride (ARG) - Shared Heart

Disco Partner
Disco Rico - Lulu's Number

Messier NEW
Empire Maker - Checkered Past

Mind Control**
Stay Thirsty - Feel That Fire

Slumber
Cacique - Sound Asleep

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protocols, pre-race inspections, laboratory harmonization, racetrack surface monitoring and uniform medication oversight. In a subsequent announcement from The Jockey Club, the Equine Injury Database findings listed an overall fatality rate of 1.11 per 1,000 starts at HISA and non-HISA tracks making up 99 percent of all Thoroughbred flat-racing starts in 2024. This figure represented the fifth consecutive year below 1.5. Tracks racing without HISA coverage had a rate of 1.76 per 1,000 starts according to The Jockey Club release.

Won

His first two races in Maryland, Turkey's champion jockey **Gokhan Kocakaya**, who scored with Kieron Magee trainees The Wolfman and States United on Laurel Park's March 7 card. Kocakaya won 2,910 races in Turkey and has also ridden in Macau, Dubai, France and Germany. Kocakaya won eight races in New York in 2024.

Won

The first stakes of his career, last year's Maryland-bred champion 3-year-old **Mindframe** who won the $200,000 Gulfstream Park Mile-G2 at the Florida track March 1. Bred by Larry Johnson and sold as a yearling for $600,000, Mindframe finished second in the Belmont Stakes and Haskell Stakes (both Grade 1) in 2024. Unraced at 2, the son of Constitution and the Street Sense mare Walk of Stars won a maiden race and a first-level allowance to start his career last spring. Trained by Todd Pletcher for Repole Stable and St. Elias Stable, the dark bay colt improved his lifetime earnings to $767,640 while prepping for the Dubai World Cup-G1.

Confirmed

In foal, Stay Home Mama and Mama Jones, the first two mares bred to first-year Pennsylvania stallion **Zozos**, who stands at Equistar Training and Breeding in Annville.

Moved

To New York's Irish Hill and Dutchess Views Stallions, 2022 Kentucky Derby-G1 winner and first-year stallion Rich Strike. The $2.5 million earner was briefly at Pennsylvania's Mountain Springs Farm with plans to start his stud career there, but was sold to a group that includes his former trainer Eric Reed.

RENEE TORBIT / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

SMALL FIELD, BIG RESULTS: Atlantic Six Racing's Book'em Danno made his first start of the year a winning one in Colonial Downs' $150,000 "Boston" handicap March 14, in which he faced stakes winners Repo Rocks and Celtic Contender after the other eight entrants scratched. His final time of 1:20.03 for 7 furlongs was .17 seconds shy of the track mark. In finishing second, Virginia-bred Repo Rocks (left) surpassed $1 million in career earnings.

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Nominated horse [owner/trainer]

BLACKHALL (IRE) [Kinross Farm / Joseph G. Davies]
GOODOLDTIMES (IRE) [Armata Stables / Mark Beecher]
GREAT ROAD [Kinross Farm / Joseph G. Davies]
MR. FINE THREADS [Armata Stables / Joseph G. Davies]
NOTJUDGINJUSTSAYIN [Fisher, Sheila and Northwoods Stable / Jack Fisher]
OUR FRIEND (IRE) [Armata Stables / Joseph G. Davies]
POCKET TALK (IRE) [Kinross Farm / Joseph G. Davies]
QUEENS EMPIRE (IRE) [Riverdee Stable / Jack Fisher]
ROAD TO OZ [Daniel R. Baker / Mark Beecher]
ROCKET STAR RED [Lucy A. Goelet / Mark Beecher]
SHOOTIST [Upland Partners / Todd McKenna]
VINTAGE VINNIE (IRE) [Armata Stables / Joseph G. Davies]
WAGNER (IRE) [Merriebelle Stable LLC / Todd J. Wyatt]
WITHOUTMOREADO (IRE) [Irvin S. Naylor / Katherine S. Neilson]

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— Next Chapters —

BY MAGGIE KIMMITT

Actxpressive

PHOTO COURTESY OF EILENE POOLE

In the late 1960s, Eilene Poole faced an unexpected fork in the road. After relocating from the North Shore of Long Island, she was living in Denton on Maryland's Eastern Shore when her husband's early passing left Poole and her 10-year-old son Jimmy facing an uncertain future.

What she did know was horses. A pleasure rider since early childhood, Poole maintained the hobby as an adult in Maryland. That interest prompted her to respond to an employment advertisement in *The Chronicle of the Horse* magazine.

The ad was placed by Sylvia Hechter, a trainer and instructor who established Winters Run Farm in Harford County, Md., in 1959.

"When I called her, she said the position was filled, so I told her my little plight," Poole said. "My husband passed away, my house sold quicker than I thought, and I needed a place. I knew nobody up here; I was just grasping. She said, 'A friend of mine is just coming back from Ireland, and I know she's going to need somebody.' That was Sara Secor, so Sylvia gave me her number. I've always loved farms – small farms, big farms. I've been around them all my life. And I had my son, so I had to have a live-in position. You don't find that everywhere."

Poole found it with the Secors in Monkton, Md. It was a seamless fit; Jimmy assimilated easily with Secor's same-age children.

"When I got there, she had 28 horses and ponies, her four children and then my son," Poole said. "There were five children in the house. And all the kids had friends there all the time . . . it was a zoo. But it was great."

Exposed to racehorses for the first time, Poole learned from Secor. Handling, managing and galloping were all components of her on-the-job training. Those years led to positions with several Elkridge-Harford Hunt Club masters, among them Turney McKnight.

"I did a lot with Turney," Poole said. "From there, everything evolved; just working with different masters and racehorses on the side."

For the past 24 years, Poole has been employed by the late Bob Kinsley and his wife, Anne. Owners for many years, the Kinsleys were avid supporters of foxhunting and jump racing.

"I live at Hanlon House. Bob passed away a few years ago and his wife has kept all their properties here," said Poole. "She has let me stay on in basically the position I have, but who knows what it is. I have no title. You just do what you've got to do. I do the gardens, a little of everything. And I have a beautiful little cottage that Bob built here for me. But the main thing is that Anne Kinsley did not have to keep these horses for me to hunt. She has been wonderful."

The horses at Hanlon House with Poole are Kinsley's top earner No Wunder (GB), now 14, and 25-year-old Actxpressive. And it's the elder statesman Actxpressive who quickly formed an enduring bond with Poole.

Bred in Florida by Randy Mills, the chestnut was foaled Jan. 23, 2000. Mills trained the horse's sire, Noactor, and the son of Theatrical (Ire) won the Bowl Game Stakes at Aqueduct in 1991. Actxpressive is out of Sunny Castle, an unraced daughter of Sunny Clime.

"I've had a lot of wonderful horses through the years, and he is one of the best jumpers I've ever been on. He had that ability. He is clean-legged; absolutely not a pimple on him. And he has been the soundest horse you could ever have in your barn."
– Eilene Poole, about foxhunter Actxpressive

Actxpressive began his career for his breeder and trainer Gary Cortolillo at Calder Race Course June 15, 2002. After two starts, his ownership changed to Donald Souder while remaining in Cortolillo's barn. Still winless after eight starts in Florida, Actxpressive shipped north to Pimlico and made his Mid-Atlantic debut June 5, 2003, with Souder as owner and trainer.

The gelding won three times for Souder until Sept. 16, 2005, when he was claimed by Charles L. Frock for $5,000 at Laurel Park. The chestnut gelding never raced for his new owner/trainer, re-emerging in spring 2007 as a timber horse for Bob Kinsley and trainer Tom Voss. Two early point-to-point tries at Cheshire and Elkridge-Harford led to a maiden timber at Virginia's Foxfield meet April 28. He finished fourth going 3 miles for jockey Cyril Murphy.

"Actxpressive and a lot of Bob's horses were trained by Tom Voss," Poole said. "Bob adored him. Tom was a teenager when I got here, and he grew up right across the road from the Secors' place. Oh my goodness . . . I could tell you some stories. He was always Tom."

Even treated with Lasix, Actxpressive bled in his races, and Voss suggested that Kinsley give the horse to Poole to remake as a foxhunter. His official Equibase record shows 56-3-8-12 with $96,475 earned.

"Tom said, 'He's gonna make a great foxhunter.' That's how I got him," Poole said. "I had said I didn't want to do it anymore because I was getting a little too old for this. But they talked me into it. I started riding the horse and I just loved him."

PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLENE POOLE

Eighteen years later, Actxpressive is a great foxhunter, and Poole is still riding him . . . although others rarely have. His chestnut coat is now dense with white hairs, but his attitude and opinions have changed little. He and Poole ride second field and no longer jump, which Poole attributes to problems with her balance.

"I've had a lot of wonderful horses through the years, and he is one of the best jumpers I've ever been on," she said. "He had that ability. He is clean-legged; absolutely not a pimple on him. And he has been the soundest horse you could ever have in your barn.

"Act is just a cool horse, just the best. He would love to keep jumping, but he's old. You get near a log and he's like 'I'm gonna go . . . I'm gonna go.' He's a very hot horse in front of a jump, and you have to know how to ride that. But I don't care what jump I've ever presented to him – at an angle, at speed, anything, it was always a safe jump. Some horses it's like 'OhmyGod, I got over it.' But not Act. You were always safe. He has terrific instincts. And he's a character in the barn. He'll take your hat off; he'll eat a banana. I have a picture of a friend of mine giving him coffee out of his mug one morning."

One of the horse's most alarming "issues," as Poole said, is his penchant for heading back to the trailer at top speed after hunting. It's a mysterious trait that has occasionally frightened a few in the field. Regardless of how long they've been out, he'll stand quietly at checks and while hounds are picked up. The second they turn and head for home, "he gets seriously crazed." Poole likens it to the homing instincts of a hound. No matter where they're hunting, the horse knows his way back to the trailer and wastes no time getting there.

"I learned how to deal with him. He has scared some people, and he's scared me a couple of times. But the minute you get to the trailer, it's 'OK, here I am.' It is odd; I've never had a horse do that to me before. He's just different that way."

He's much more calm about it, but Actxpressive also exhibits a fondness for the trailer when it's time to go foxhunting.

Fully tacked with a cooler over his long frame and a lead rope draped over his neck, he walks – alone – on a gravel driveway to the trailer's side door. He pauses for about a second, steps up the ramp and into the trailer, moves forward to clear the corner with his left hip and backs into the stall alongside No Wunder.

You can't hear him, but he's thinking, "All right, I'm in. Let's go."

His quirks are minor inconveniences to Poole. At 25, Actxpressive is in great health, sharp as a new pair of scissors and still loves his work. And at 84, the same is true of Poole.

Pausing, she said, "Aren't we fortunate to do what we love and be able to survive on it? When you love it and put your heart in it, it's totally different than when you're just doing it as a job. And why would you stop?" ■

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— From the editor —

BY JOE CLANCY

New York stakes finally gets smart name change

The interview always resonates. It's one I recollect with ease and quote regularly – no, not verbatim. I can't find the notes file, which may have been typed into software that no longer exists – or perhaps scribbled into a notepad. If the computer I wrote the story on exists, it lives near the bottom of Apple's recycling chain. By now, I trust it was made into something useful.

The article appeared in MAT's March 2009 edition, the *Maryland Horse* newsletter section which focused on the Maryland-bred champions of 2008. Smart and Fancy won the older female title, and I talked to trainer Tony Dutrow about her. Editor Lucy Acton told me not to tell him about the championship, which would have ruined the surprise, but he didn't need much prompting. I guess I just said I was doing a story about Smart and Fancy. Dutrow obliged and told me all about the then 6-year-old mare.

As only he could.

He thought about his answers, tried to give voice to what his horse meant to him, used my name, and hers, over and over. I heard, "Well, Joe . . ." and "Smart and Fancy is" multiple times. Reading it again, the short profile in the magazine didn't do Dutrow or Smart and Fancy justice. His admiration, respect, love, whatever for the daughter of Not For Love kind of came through but maybe not as much as I wanted it to or could convey.

"I'm lucky because I have a small handful of horses like her," he said in the story. "You know, the ones you always look for, that come back year after year – you have so much respect for them and what they do. You're really blessed when you have horses like that. They become part of the family."

Smart and Fancy did that. Purchased for $47,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2004 fall yearling sale – more than double the average – she endeared herself to her trainer, bloodstock agent Mark Reid and owner Park Avenue Racing Stable (later Win and Place Stable). Dutrow had seen the filly at breeders Tom and Chris Bowman's Roland Farm before the sale and loved her. He said he would have paid more, but that some buyers were scared off by the lack of a pre-sale endoscopy. Smart and Fancy didn't have a wind problem; she was just too high-strung to be scoped.

The breathing was free and easy as she piled up 10 wins (two in Maryland Million races) in her first 17 starts, then added three more wins during the Maryland-bred championship season in 2008. She won stakes on turf and dirt, in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia and New York. By the time her career ended in 2009, she'd won 14 races, placed in 11 others and earned $826,433. Other than her first two starts, and her last, she never finished worse than third.

Why write all that, all these years later? Well, reader, a Smart and Fancy injustice has been corrected – and everybody ought to know about it.

In 2012, the New York Racing Association honored Smart and Fancy with a stakes race. Originally held at Belmont Park, the race moved to Saratoga Race Course in 2014 and has been there since. For some reason, the 2015 race title became the Smart N Fancy Stakes which – thanks to my interview I guess – always rubbed me wrong. That's not her name. Don't cheat, spell the "and." The only horses registered as Smart N Fancy are Quarter Horses – a Nebraska-bred of 1982 and a Missouri-bred of 2023.

The race's actual namesake didn't take shortcuts. Her race shouldn't either. For years, I've changed it everywhere I could and silently – sometimes not so silently – seethed over the slight. Would people stand for the Man o' War Stakes being called the Man of War? Or the Secretariat Stakes the Secretary? Of course not.

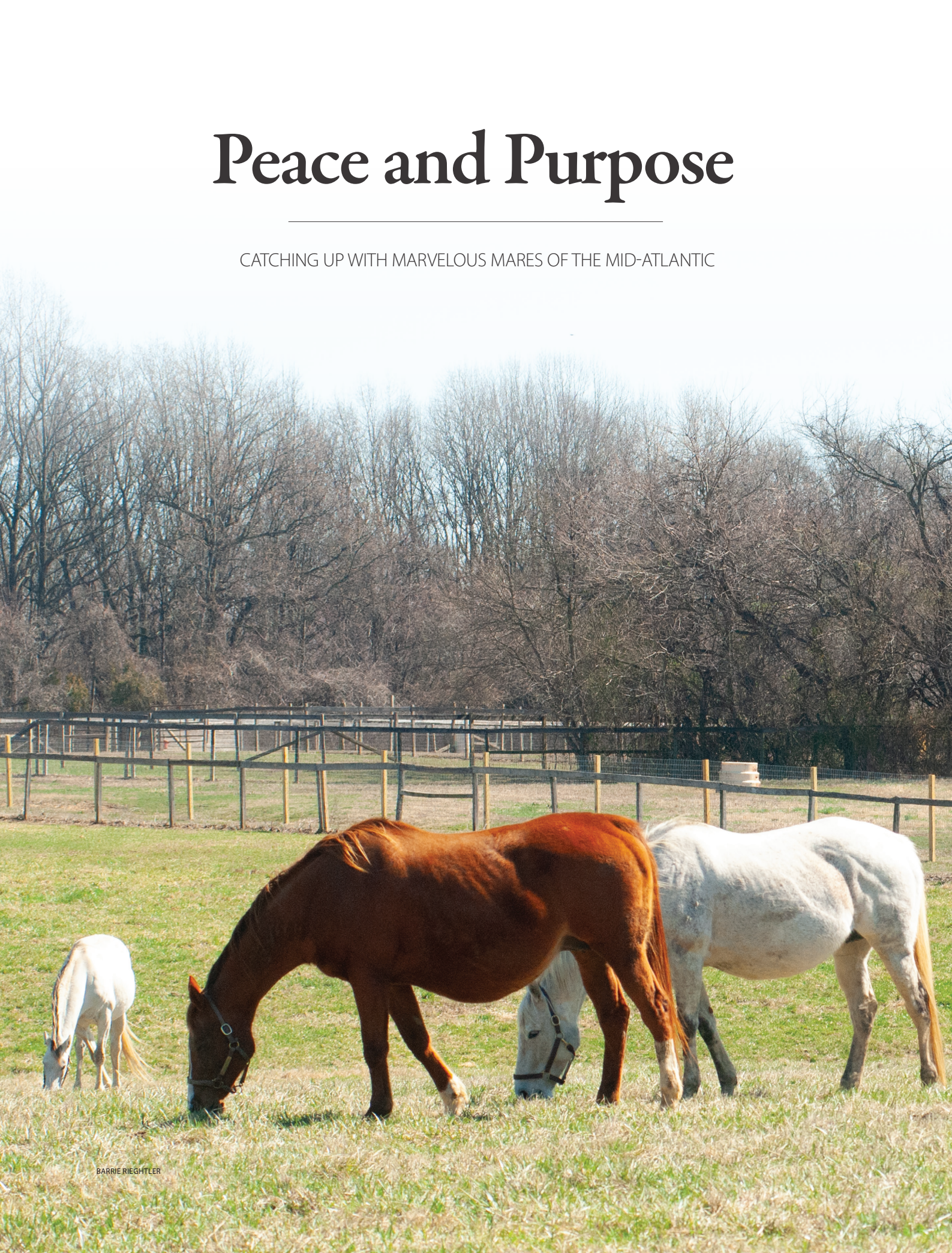
Last year, I sent NYRA senior director of racing/racing secretary Keith Doleshel an email. He said he'd look into it. He's the one who figured out that the first three runnings got her name right. In mid-March, Doleshel's stakes schedule for Saratoga 2025 came out and there it is, the Smart *and* Fancy – 5½ furlongs on the turf, for fillies and mares, at Saratoga Aug. 15.

Thank you. Somebody try to get Tony Dutrow there to present the trophy. And tell him I sent you.

Note: Perhaps in honor of its namesake, Saratoga's Smart and Fancy Stakes counts four Maryland-breds among its winners – Madame Giry (2012), Ginger N Rye (2017), Introduced (2020) and Future Is Now (2024). ■

Peace and Purpose

CATCHING UP WITH MARVELOUS MARES OF THE MID-ATLANTIC



BARRIE RIEGHTLER

Check in with some of the region's "notable" broodmares. Make it interesting, timely, impactful. Cross state borders. Show readers the why and how behind the names and numbers. Mix up the horses and the breeders, even though we know we're going to miss some. More than some.

This story about broodmares has been on a list of articles for three months – maybe more. It's not new, though the exercise didn't happen last year. The goal, as always, was to tell interesting stories within the confines of space and time. We tried.

As always, the mares are all winners. Give them their due.

BARRIE RIEHGLTER

Breeder Jay Williamson shares some time with his mare Parade of Colors and her turnout companion Jimmy the pony. Both hoped for a mint.

Parade of Colors

In his Maryland racing job making sure the right horses get directed toward the test barn after every race, Jay Williamson sees winners all day.

And, thanks to broodmare Parade of Colors, Williamson regularly gets to see a horse he bred. Led by stakes winners Ournationonparade and the more recent Stickwiththecolors, Parade of Colors has produced seven winners from eight foals to race. They've combined to win 36 races and earn $1,354,378 through March 10.

Not bad for a free broodmare.

The story of Parade of Colors takes a few turns to get to its most meaningful part. Bred in Florida by Roy Lerman, the daughter of Leading the Parade and the Unbridled mare Arcanum didn't bring her reserve (after a bid of $2,200) at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale of 2009. Lerman didn't want to ship her home so Williamson and consignor Marshall Silverman bought her for $2,500 and sold her the following May for $15,000. She won twice for Clover Hill Racing and trainer Tim Keefe and was claimed for $5,000 by Midwest Thoroughbreds and Jamie Ness in January 2012. Two starts later, she won at the same level, but eight consecutive losses followed and somewhere in the losing streak Williamson asked Ness about her.

"If you ever get tired of her or think she's had enough, I'd like to have her," Williamson told the trainer. Ness, walking along the outside rail after a race at Laurel Park, listened and filed it away. Parade of Colors finished fourth in three consecutive races – at Presque Isle Downs, Delaware Park and Laurel – that summer and Ness let Williamson know.

"Go to Bowie and get her," the trainer said. "If you want her, she's yours."

Williamson went to the Maryland racetrack turned training center, picked up his new/old horse, and Parade of Colors has been thanking him since. Boarded in Sparks, Md., with Sherry Rudolph, the 17-year-old mare acts far younger.

Dam of Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Post Time, Vielsalm will foal in Kentucky this year.

"She runs through the field like she's a yearling," said Williamson. "From the day I got her from Jamie, she's lived outside. She loves it. She's turned out with a Shetland pony partner, gets fed twice a day and gets alfalfa 24/7/365. She leads a good life."

She hasn't had a foal since 2022, but was in the midst of a resurgence thanks to Stickwiththecolors, who won the $75,000 Conniver Stakes for Williamson and trainer John Salzman Jr. at Laurel March 8. The 4-year-old daughter of Divining Rod has won three in a row – a $45,000 conditioned claiming race in December, a January allowance and the Maryland-bred stakes.

"It's all the mare," said Williamson, while trying to explain the success. "She's well-bred on her mother's side and on her sire's side you've got My Flag and Personal Ensign back there. It's worked well. I've been lucky. It doesn't matter who trains them, they're out of different stallions and they can usually run."

Parade of Colors has gone to Maryland stallions Cal Nation (twice), Freedom Child, Tritap, Divining Rod (twice) and Mosler (twice) while cranking out winners. She didn't produce a foal in 2023 or 2024, but Williamson planned to send her to Blofeld this year. Regardless of whether she gets in foal again or not, Parade of Colors means plenty to her owner.

"I was in the right place at the right time," Williamson said. "It's luck. You don't have to be smart, you've got to have luck. I saw something in her eye that made me say, 'Jay, don't let this mare go.' "

The decision is still paying off.

– Joe Clancy

Vielsalm

Milton Higgins III gave Brooke Bowman a list of possible stallions for a foal sharing venture involving Vielsalm. Bowman didn't get far on the list for his graded stakes-placed mare.

"You don't get the opportunity to breed to one of the best sires in history. We figured why not. We decided to take a big swing. For once."

– Brooke Bowman, on Vielsalm's pending 2025 foal by Tapit

"I saw Frosted and I didn't look at the rest of the names," Bowman said. "It had nothing to do with research. I did zero research."

It had to do with an experience.

Bowman and his sister, Becky Davis went to Saratoga to cheer on Vielsalm in the 2016 Waya Stakes-G3. The Maryland-bred daughter of Fairbanks finished eighth at 49-1.

"It was a little thing to check off, that I had a horse decent enough to run there, long on the turf, everything I thought was cool. We got our butts whipped but in the next race Frosted won the Whitney," Bowman said. "They went 6 furlongs in 1:09 or something and I was like, 'Well, that's the end of him' and then he just continued to wreck everybody. It was wild. I was like, 'What the hell did we just watch?' That's the only reason she went to Frosted. That's it. Well, Milton must have done some research, but I didn't."

Four years after Frosted's Whitney-G1, Vielsalm gave birth to a gray colt. Davis sold him for $85,000 at Timonium the following year. Three years after that, Post Time, bred by Higgins (who died in 2023), Bowman and his parents Tom and Chris Bowman, earned the 2024 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, older male and sprint titles to go with his 2022 juvenile male crown.

Trained by Brittany Russell for Hillwood Stable, Post Time won in order the Jennings, General George-G3, Carter-G2 and Polynesian and placed in the Breeders' Cup Dirt Mile-G1, Whitney-G1, Met Mile-G1, Cigar Mile-G2 and Westchester-G3 last year. He ran nine times and earned $975,000. Post Time enters his 5-year-old season with nine wins, three seconds and three thirds from 15 starts.

That and more earned Vielsalm the Maryland Broodmare of the Year crown.

"When he made his first start, he was sidewinding down the stretch, but he kicked everybody's tail. I was like, 'Whoa, that was something different.' That's why we do this," Bowman said. "What a blessing. It's been crazy. The Carter, the Met Mile, the Whitney, the Breeders' Cup . . . it's so crazy to think that's who he is. Just a special experience, so cool. Why did we breed him and raise him? I don't know. We just give them grass and water and sunshine and air."

Vielsalm got all that when she was born in 2010, failed to reach her $3,500 reserve a year later and over the next five seasons when she won seven races, including the All Brandy Stakes at Laurel Park, and was Grade 3-placed in Gallorette, for trainers Dickie Small, Dylan Smith and Lynn Ashby.

Retired in 2016, Vielsalm produced What Does It Take in 2018. The son of Munnings has won eight races and $311,946 the hard way. A year later, Vielsalm produced Battle of Bastogne, a three-time winning son of Street Magician. Her 2022 foal, Field Song, a daughter of McKinzie, has yet to race. Vielsalm lost a Nyquist colt last year.

Last year, the Bowmans signed her up to a golden ticket. She is in foal to Tapit, the all-time leading North American sire by progeny earnings.

"We were going to breed to Frosted last year but the possibility to breed to Tapit came out of left field," Bowman said. "You don't get the opportunity to breed to one of the best sires in history. We figured why not. We decided to take a big swing. For once. We'll see how it goes."

The Bowmans haven't decided where Vielsalm will foal this year, but plan on breeding her back to Frosted.

"She's chilling here for now and we're trying to figure out what to do. A couple of months ago, we were certain we were going to foal her in Kentucky," Bowman said in February. "I would bet, I actually just bet my mom $100 yesterday that my dad would end up convincing himself to foal her here. He'll be a nervous wreck if she goes anywhere else and he'll also be a nervous wreck while she's here." (Update: Brooke lost the bet. His father and everyone else are nervous wrecks).

Who wouldn't be?

– Sean Clancy

Peach of a Gal

Jim Dresher's father, also Jim, used a familiar phrase to recognize excellence.

"His way of putting his blessing on another man if a guy was high-integrity, a family man, a good business guy, was, 'He's a peach of a guy,' " Dresher said. "She was born on his birthday, so I called her Peach of a Gal."

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Peach of a Gal and Jose Zamora head to a field at Glenangus Farm.

The daughter of star sire Curlin and Dresher's Polish Numbers mare Richetta was foaled April 9, 2015. She won three races, including a stakes at Delaware Park as a 3-year-old, in Dresher's Glenangus Farm silks and joined her dam in the broodmare band. Second foal Studlydoright won the Maryland-bred 2-year-old male championship in 2024 thanks to two stakes wins and a Grade 3 placing in New York. He's testing the Triple Crown trail waters and was fifth, in a tight finish for third, in the Virginia Derby last month.

A 2021 Kantharos colt named Silk Suit lost both starts in 2024, but will get another chance in 2025. The 2-year-old Ghostzapper filly Magic Beam could make the races this year and an Omaha Beach yearling represents even more future. Jim Dresher Sr., 79 when he died in 1999, would approve.

During a farm visit late last year, Peach of a Gal was carrying a Bolt d'Oro foal and looked like she could go back into training.

"She looks like this 365 days a year," Dresher said. "They gave her a bath and pulled her mane, but the reality is even pulled out of the field she looks like this."

The bay mare made a big impression as a foal on the Bowman's family's Roland Farm and nearby Heritage Stallion Station in Chesapeake City, Md., and hasn't lost much of the reputation.

"It took seven of us to catch her, every single day," said Candy Hartsoe Zamora, Dresher's farm manager, of the early days. "She would run dead-on straight at you and be like, 'You better move because I'm not moving.' She was so bad. Once

BARRIE REIGHTLER

Glenangus Farm's foundation mare Richetta enjoys retirement at age 24.

you caught her, she was fine, but she was rotten. To this day, she's very much a character. It's nothing like it was and I love her, but she is up in your business and all about what you're doing."

Her foals get some of that attitude – and all the looks.

"They're stunning, and they're smart and they're funny," Zamora said. "They have really good personalities."

Peach of a Gal's 2025 foal was due this month, and she was booked to Practical Joke this year.

– Joe Clancy

Richetta

She's retired at age 24, but the Glenangus mare Richetta earns a check-in thanks to a long history of success. A $22,000 sales yearling by breeder Elk Manor Farm in 2002 and a $100,000 2-year-old purchase, she won five races (four stakes) and a Maryland-bred juvenile filly title for Bowman and Higgins Stable and trainer Robin Graham.

As a broodmare, her foals include nine winners topped by $461,140 earner Concealed Identity and graded-stakes producer Rich Love. Dresher bought Richetta on the advice of Dr. Tom Bowman as a potential foundation mare and it has paid off with daughters Peach of a Gal and Good Measure now part of the Glenangus band.

"There's no guarantee you'll get a foundation mare when you try to buy one, but that's what she's become," said Dresher. "No question."

The role earned her a retirement with 22-year-old best friend Pearly Beach.

"Anything she wants to do," Zamora said about Richetta's daily to-do list. "She hangs out and eats grass and hay and lives her very best retired life. She's as kind as you can get, just a really cool old lady."

– Joe Clancy

Adorabella

Her son is a Grade 1 winner and millionaire. She cost $550,000. But Adorabella might get lost if you don't pay attention.

"She's quiet as a church mouse," said Mark Reid, who bought the daughter of Ghostzapper for Glenn Bennett's LC Racing in November 2023. "You wouldn't know she was around."

But she is. And you better not miss her. In early March, the 9-year-old mare was a few weeks from delivering a Medaglia d'Oro foal at Pennsylvania's Westerly Farm where Reid oversees a string of mares and young horses for LC Racing, Chuck Zacney's Cash Is King and other clients. Purchased for $14,000 by New Jersey breeder Greg Kilka in January 2020, Adorabella produced future stakes winner Girl Trouble that April. Adorabella's 2021 foal is Book'em Danno, the 2024 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year who won last year's Woody Stephens Stakes-G1. LC owned part of Girl Trouble with Swilcan Stable, bought the 2022 foal, unraced 3-year-old Coach Bennett (by Classic Empire), for $135,000 as a yearling and leapt at the chance to add Adorabella to the portfolio when she showed up in the Fasig-Tipton Kentucky fall mixed sale in 2023. She lost the Medaglia d'Oro foal she was carrying, but was bred back to the Darley America stallion in 2024.

"Everything looks comfortable and is progressing nicely," said Reid, who bought Medaglia d'Oro for Edmund Gann as a 3-year-old in 2002 and watched him put together a career with three Grade 1 wins and $5.7 million earned. "She's a raw-boned, physical-looking mare that I really like. We paid a lot of money for her and unfortunately she came back and

MAGGIE KIMMITT (3)

Westerly Farm mares overseen by Mark Reid include (clockwise from top) Quiet Virtue with her Maximus Mischief colt, Adorabella and Expect Wonderful.

slipped that foal. I loved the cross, so I talked to Glenn and we sent her back. We're very much looking forward to this foal."

Adorabella will be bred to Forte, a champion grandson of Medaglia d'Oro, this year.

– Joe Clancy

Expect Wonderful

Living up to her name, Expect Wonderful was . . . well . . . expecting an Omaha Beach foal in early March.

"She was due a week or so ago," said Reid of the 11-year-old daughter of Tiz Wonderful, still due a week after that conversation, but finally delivered a colt March 13. His half-brother Uncle Heavy, a son of Social Inclusion, has won three races, topped by the 2024 Withers Stakes-G3, and earned $413,180. Reid trained Expect Wonderful for Dan Ryan's Smart Angle stable and spent $1,700 to buy her (carrying Uncle Heavy) for Milam Racing Stable in 2020 out of the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale. She belongs to Reid and LC Racing now, and was booked to former Cash Is King and LC runner Maximus Mischief.

Once the home of Miles and Joy Valentine, Thoroughbred owners/breeders and steeplechase enthusiasts whose horses included Colonial Cup winner Lucky Boy III and three-time Maryland Hunt Cup winner Cancottage (GB), Westerly now belongs to Ann Lapides. Reid rented space there for his Walnut Green bloodstock and sales consignment business. He retired in 2022, but still advises clients and helps make decisions about horses.

"I leased it for years and turned it back to them," Reid said of the farm. "They're handling the farm work, I advise on the breedings and left the clients here. It's worked out very well. They do a great job taking care of the horses. It's old school."

– Joe Clancy

Quiet Virtue

Reid managed the 2005 Horse of the Year campaign by Saint Liam for owner Bill Warren, and remembers it every time he sees broodmare Quiet Virtue.

"Quiet American," Reid said. "I've always liked Quiet American mares; he was the broodmare sire of Saint Liam and you can just tell a Quiet American mare when you see one. She's a big, tall, broad mare who gets nice foals."

The latest, a Maximus Mischief colt, arrived in early March.

Quiet Virtue lost 16 consecutive flat races for breeders Bert and Diana Firestone and other connections before breaking through in a $5,000 maiden claimer at Penn National in June 2016. Four months later, she made the first of three starts over hurdles for Westerly Farm and trainer Lilith Boucher. Third twice, Quiet Virtue changed careers again and became a broodmare. She caught Reid's attention with her 2021 colt by Maximus Mischief.

"We foaled the horse here and as a yearling he was a fancy-looking fellow," said Reid. "Ann sold him to LC Racing and then Glenn bought the whole family."

The yearling turned out to be Maximus Meridius, who won two stakes at Aqueduct this winter and had earned $500,430 through March 10. She didn't have a foal in 2022, delivered a now 2-year-old Maximus Mischief colt in 2023 and was booked back to him again this year.

"She has a very nice 2-year-old colt coming in that they're all raving about on the farm in Florida," said Reid. "Why change up? They bought this mare to breed to him, so why not?"

– Joe Clancy

A Dicey Dame

Like all good horse breeders, Lynn Ashby just had a feeling.

The Delaware-based trainer was breaking a Pennsylvania-bred daughter of Colonel John for owner/breeder Phyllis Wyeth in 2015.

"There's something about this filly . . ."

When Wyeth said she was going to send the dark bay filly to a sale, Ashby joined up with Bill Gotwals and made Wyeth an offer.

"She had a club foot, and I used to trim and shoe my own. I know enough to be dangerous," Ashby said in February. "I said, 'I can deal with this club foot.' "

A Dicey Dame made her debut at Parx in October 2015. She finished ninth. And bowed a tendon. Ashby stuck with her feeling and added A Dicey Dame to her small broodmare band at her farm, the former Bayard Sharp property, in Middletown. In 2018, A Dicey Dame produced the club-footed Frame That Dame, who was winless in two starts. A year later, Epic Luck came along. The son of Madefromlucky won the Kitten's Joy Stakes at Colonial Downs in his second start for Ashby and Gotwals and has won six of his 40 starts for several sets of connections.

In 2021, A Dicey Dame produced Sharp Tones. The 4-year-old son of Tonalist owns three wins and three seconds for Ashby and Gotwals. The Pennsylvania-bred won an allowance race at Parx in January.

Re Markably came along in 2022 and enjoyed a stellar juvenile season last year. The son of Hoppertunity won his debut at Delaware Park, finished third in the Hickory Tree at Colonial Downs, won the Dover at Delaware and finished

second in the First State Dash, Maryland Million Nursey and James F. Lewis. The campaign attracted the attention of prominent owners Adam Wachtel and Gary Barber.

"I didn't particularly want to sell Re Markably, but they just made an offer that we couldn't refuse," Ashby said. "He just left. He's on his way to Billy Mott's at Payson Park. We went back in with them. It's a fun partnership. There's six of us. I like Bill Mott. That got me excited. We'll see. You know how horse racing goes."

And horse breeding.

A Dicey Dame's 2023 foal, Dashful Dame, died before she turned a year old. They still don't know why.

"Beautiful filly. Had the perfect feet, legs were correct," Ashby said. "I was going through my phone and deleting pictures, there she was as a cute thing. I took one last look and deleted it. It's over."

Barren in 2024, A Dicey Dame went on a road trip to Sally Thomas' farm in Kentucky and foaled a Knicks Go colt Feb. 11.

"Locally, we did OK and now I've tried to upgrade her. I bred her to Knicks Go because she's doing so good with these colts," Ashby said. "Her page is starting to look good. We'll stay in Kentucky and take a look and then bring her back here. I hope it's right. Who knows where we're going?"

– Sean Clancy

Summertime Green

Summertime Green earned her place in the hearts of the team at Smitten Farm long before her 2020 Not This Time colt Gigante earned headlines at a Fasig-Tipton's digital flash sale in late January.

"She's fantastic and everybody's favorite mare on the farm," said Hunter Marek, broodmare manager at Ann Mudge Backer's farm in The Plains, Va. "She's sweet as can be, easy to be around and one of Mr. Backer's remaining homebreds. At this point, we only have two that are actual homebreds, the ones where we had the dam and the second dam and the third dam. So, she's just always been special to Smitten Farm."

A 17-year-old daughter of Empire Maker bred by the late Bill Backer, Summertime Green produced her 10th foal in 2024 before taking the season off.

She returned to the breeding shed this season and was bred to City of Light at Lane's End Farm in Kentucky.

"She wasn't bred last year. She foaled a really nice Epicenter colt in mid-May last year," Marek said. "She's older now, so we decided that she would need a year off and bred her back early this year.

"Mrs. Backer, she's 92 now and the one thing that she's still very, very involved in is picking out the stallions. We make our suggestions and kind of give the top three picks for each mare, and then she goes ahead and picks out which one she wants. With Summertime Green, we told her she could go proven, unproven, whatever she wanted. We have a really nice City of Light yearling filly here at the farm and she really wanted to go back to him. Summertime Green is getting up there in age but she's in great health and we're hoping to get a few more foals out of her."

Gigante, Summertime Green's sixth foal, sold for $610,000 to Clark Brewster and L and N Racing in January. The Virginia-bred won the Buddy Diliberto Memorial Stakes Dec. 21 and Colonel E. R. Bradley Jan. 18, both at Fair Grounds, before the digital sale. The 5-year-old had earned $1,189,400 through March 11.

Summertime Green is also the dam of stakes winner Tryon Summer and stakes-placed Gun Runner 3-year-old colt Contrabandist, a $300,000 purchase by Donegal Racing at Keeneland September in 2023.

Emerald Spun, a 2023 filly by Hard Spun, brought $50,000 at last year's Keeneland September sale.

"They all have very nice personalities," Marek said. "There was only one who wasn't that friendly, which we were all shocked because her babies usually have her personality. They usually look like her, pretty bays and they're usually all correct. I've never really had any issues with her. It just took her a long time to prove herself."

– Tom Law

Winter

Winter's steady string of Saratoga yearling prospects might come to an end this year, but that doesn't dampen the outlook going past 2025.

"She seems to have a Saratoga prospect every year," said Marek. "They haven't all gone on to be superstars, but she produces a really, really pretty foal, so hopefully we can have more winners out of her."

Winfinity, one of those Saratoga yearlings, showed signs of being a star when she won the $150,000-added Keswick Stakes in her debut last August. The daughter of Not This Time cost $385,000 at the 2023 Saratoga sale and finished ninth in the Untapable Stakes at Kentucky Downs last September before trainer John Ortiz put her away for the season. Winfinity returned to finish second in allowance company at Colonial Downs in March.

Winter didn't produce a foal in 2023, delivered a Virginia-bred daughter of Vino Rosso in 2024 and was bred to Epicenter last season, delivering a filly March 12. The 12-year-

old daughter of Awesome Again was set to return to WinStar Farm in Kentucky in 2025.

"We have a contract to Cogburn, kind of going back to the whole Winfinity pedigree there," Marek said of the record-setting turf sprinter. "We really think he's a very, very, very attractive son of Not This Time and we're excited to go to him this year.

"They always look exactly like her . . . The whole thought of going to Vino Rosso was to give her more compact . . . [and] a little different from her. She's very tall and leggy and has a long neck. We just wanted to match her with something that was going to kind of balance that out. And go figure, our Vino Rosso came out looking like all of her other foals."

Marek said no plans were set for the Vino Rosso filly through the end of February.

"We'll see what happens. Mrs. Backer has decided she doesn't want to race anymore, so we're not keeping anything," Marek said. "We're going to sell horses where they'll be the most successful, whether that's Saratoga, whether that's Book Four at Keeneland, whether that's Fasig-Tipton October. The goal is to place the horses where they will show the best."

– *Tom Law*

KATHARINE TURNBULL

Retired broodmare Miss Ocean City still holds a special place at Smitten Farm in Virginia.

Miss Ocean City

Smitten's Miss Ocean City, the dam of $1.1 million Midlantic May juvenile and Grade 3-placed Shaaz, was recently retired.

The 19-year-old daughter of Mineshaft produced a colt by Uncle Mo's champion son Nyquist last year. In addition to Shaaz, Miss Ocean City produced Grade 2 winner and $356,558 earner Azar and winners Exult and In the Deep.

"We didn't breed her last year, but we did get one more foal out of her last year," Marek said. "He is a Nyquist colt, so he's a three-quarter sibling to Shaaz. He's standing out in California now [his first foals arrive this year] after selling so well at Timonium and running with Bob Baffert. To have a three-quarter sibling and for it to be a Nyquist is exciting. I'm hopeful that he will be well received."

Miss Ocean City, a winner in six starts and the earner of $46,887, didn't produce a foal from 2021 to 2023.

"If you look at her produce record, it is extremely spotty," said Marek. "We didn't even know if this colt would make it full term. Thankfully he did, was healthy and everything went OK. But just the struggle of getting her pregnant and then

In foal to Epicenter, Smitten Farm mare Winter (who delivered a filly March 12) has a date with the speedy Cogburn this year.

KATHERINE TURNBULL

Ideal Thoughts (left) and Stefani's Surprise are part of mother-son team Jill and Chip Daniel's broodmare band in West Virginia.

"We purchased her for pretty cheap. Couldn't be happier. She'll go back to Great Notion this year, too. They're right around the corner from us so it's pretty handy. She's getting pretty old, 20 now, but she's pretty solid."

– Jamie Ness, about stakes producer Hartigan

maintaining a pregnancy, it just wasn't worth it to the vets, to me, to the mare herself. Systemically she was difficult, but mentally, yeah, she's also very difficult. She's enjoying retirement. Mrs. Backer keeps all of her retired mares, so we have a herd of seven. She's with them and they still get spoiled and pampered, and she is enjoying not being pregnant."

– Tom Law

Hartigan

The scene looked like something out of modern society – children noshing on unlimited salad and breadsticks and a parent scrolling through his phone at a table inside an Olive Garden in Anywhere, America.

Just don't think that's all it was.

"The kids were eating, and I was looking through the RNAs for the sale and she popped up," Jamie Ness said of that day, Jan. 13, 2020, when he took a break from the meal to inquire about then 15-year-old Include mare Hartigan. "She's gone through the ring, and I think they bought her back for

KATHERINE TURNBULL

Broodmare Get Lucky sets an example for three yearlings behind her. The trio includes her daughter by Dialed In (center), a Fiber Sonde colt out of Ideal Thoughts (left) and a Beau Liam colt out of Stefani's Surprise.

$15,000. . . She was in foal to Exaggerator, he was pretty cold and nobody really wanted her."

Ness, who trains in the Mid-Atlantic and operates the Jagger Inc. operation with his wife Mandy, wanted the mare if the price was right. After another break from the Tour of Italy and a phone call to someone he knew at Taylor Made Sales Agency, the deal found traction.

"Listen, you still got that mare?" Ness asked.

"Yeah. We'll take $13,000 for her."

"All right, sign the ticket."

Bred in Maryland by Robert Meyerhoff, Hartigan went down on the sales results as a $13,000 private sale and she's been money well spent – even at the expense of some quality family time.

Hartigan headed to the Ness farm in Chesapeake City and delivered her first "ness" foal there three months later. Guaponess, a gelding by Exaggerator who continues to race in the claiming ranks in the Mid-Atlantic, sports a record of 4-6-4 and earnings of $113,342 from 26 starts and counts a Parx win March 18.

Speedyness, a son of Northview Stallion Station's Great Notion, arrived a year later. Co-owned by his breeder and Morris Kernan Jr., the gelding made a quick impression that continues into his 4-year-old campaign.

"One of the first 2-year-old races of the year in the Mid-Atlantic at Laurel was 4½ [furlongs] and he won it," Ness said. "I remember telling my wife, 'Oh, I don't know, he's all speed. I don't know how far he can go.' "

As a 3-year-old, Speedyness sped to a victory in the 1-mile Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel Park, along with placings in the 1 1/16-mile Private Terms and 1⅛-mile Federico Tesio, also at Laurel. He placed in two other stakes – one at 7 furlongs and another at 1 1/16 miles – last fall.

Speedyness added the 9-furlong John B. Campbell Feb. 15 and finished third in the Not For Love Stakes cutting back to 6 furlongs March 8 at Laurel. He sported a 7-2-4 mark from 18 starts with $397,840 earned through early March.

JOHN FUNKHOUSER

Stone Cold Flirt is part of the broodmare band at West Virginia's O'Sullivan Farms.

"He's done it all now, from winning a 4½-furlong as a first-time starter to a mile-and-an-eighth," Ness said.

Hartigan's third foal for the Nesses also won her debut. Sassafrassness, a 3-year-old Unified filly, won a waiver maiden event going 6 furlongs March 7 at Laurel for Jagger and Kernan. Hartigan is also the dam of a yearling Maryland-bred filly by Blofeld and a full-brother to Speedyness in the early morning hours of Feb. 29 – foals 12 and 13 overall.

"There she is and her little colt," Ness said after collecting the National Claiming Horse of the Year honor for Spikezone during the National HBPA's annual conference Feb. 24 in Florida. "Believe it or not, I'm driving to the airport this morning and, my wife texted me, that's why she didn't come along, this photo of Hartigan and her colt.

"We purchased her for pretty cheap. Couldn't be happier. She'll go back to Great Notion this year, too. They're right around the corner from us so it's pretty handy. She's getting pretty old, 20 now, but she's pretty solid. We did give her one year off. Sometimes you need to do that to reset them a little bit, but we're hopeful to keep her going for a few more years. She's been a great mare." *– Tom Law*

Sunday in Malibu

Industrial psychologist, Maryland native and owner/breeder Dr. Ronald Harris Parker and trainer Todd Beattie walked the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic sales grounds in Timonium before the 2017 January mixed sale, scouting broodmare prospects and working up a short list.

Then 11-year-old Malibu Moon mare Sunday in Malibu consigned by Marshall Silverman, landed on the list.

"She had a great hip on her," Parker said eight years later. "She's got real good bones. And I didn't know anything about anything. Then after I purchased her, one of her horses [Faze the Nation] became stakes-placed. We went around, looked at the horses and she was by far the best physical mare that was in that sale in our opinion. That's always relative and open to interpretation. But we always really liked the mare, and I was very fortunate to get her for what I got her. I was so very surprised there wasn't more interest in her."

Parker, a former state policeman, college professor at Hood College in Frederick, Md., and corporate executive who also owns a home in Rehoboth Beach, Del., bought the stakes-

TERESA HOPFGARTNER-FUNKHOUSER

John Funkhouser shows off Unruly Julie (left, carrying a Frosted foal) and her 22-year-old dam Julie B (due any day to first-year sire My Prankster) at O'Sullivan Farms in mid-March.

placed mare in foal to Cal Nation for $5,000. She's been productive ever since. Her first foal for Parker, the Cal Nation filly (now mare) Sunday in L B C, won once in 33 starts but placed in 14 other races. Sunday in Malibu has since produced a stakes winner, two stakes-placed winners and a colt who brought six figures at the 2021 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old sale.

The Bourbon Courage mare Malibu Moonshine stands at the top of the group. Bred in Maryland by Parker, she won half of her 10 starts (including three stakes triumphs) for New York-based trainer Charlton Baker through August 2024. Linda Rice claimed her, out of a win, for $25,000 at Saratoga and the now 5-year-old returned to her roots for Harris and co-owner/trainer Todd Beattie. In her 2025 debut, she finished second in the Conniver Stakes March 8 to get to $273,900 in earnings.

"She's our big girl," Parker said. "She's a stakes winner, open and restricted."

The cross with Bourbon Courage, who stands at Anchor and Hope Farm in Port Deposit, Md., proved successful enough that Parker went back to the Lion Heart stallion from 2021 to 2023. The stakes-placed Maryland-bred filly Malibu Hooch came in 2022, followed by the 2-year-old Maryland-bred filly Malibu's Rumrunner and most recently the yearling Pennsylvania-bred colt Malibu Bootlegger.

Parker started breeding in Pennsylvania before eventually boarding his mares at Shamrock Farm in Woodbine, Md. He moved the operation to Chip and Barbara Wheeler's WynOaks Farm in Delta, Pa., before the 2024 foal crop hit the ground.

"Pennsylvania, at this particular time, offers more stability, if you will, in light of what's going on in Maryland," Parker said. "You also have tracks that are offering more racing dates as compared to the 120 that we have in Maryland. In Pennsylvania there are alternatives. If I had a horse that could run on an all-weather track, I go to Presque Isle. If I have a horse that's turf, I can run either at Penn or Parx and if they're dirt, Penn and Parx. From a racing standpoint point, it offers you more variety and it doesn't confine the type of horse.

"That's kind of the reason for the move, coupled with the fact that they're going to renovate Pimlico and that's going

be in the next year and a half type thing, a lot of things could happen. I just didn't like the instability basically."

Parker also gave Sunday in Malibu a break for the 2024 season, with plans to venture out of the Mid-Atlantic in 2025.

"She's a 2006 and I want to preserve the years on her," Parker said. "This year I'm going to take her down to Kentucky . . . I wanted to give her a shot. We lined up a date with Cyberknife at Spendthrift. We're going to try for some of that Gun Runner magic and see if we can't do something. Not that I am dissatisfied with what I have in the pipeline. On the contrary, I think the 2-year-old that I have, who will begin training soon, is every bit much as good as the previous Bourbon Courage fillies I've had."

– Tom Law

Happy Numbers and Ideal Thoughts

Find a few families and stick with them. That's been the case with Jill Daniel and her son, West Virginia state veterinarian and Charles Town's equine medical director Dr. Francis "Chip" Daniel, who have bred numerous stakes performers from a small but select broodmare band.

Linebreeding has been an important tool and one mare they've searched out for 25 years is champion and producer Numbered Account. Chip found the perfect candidate in Happy Numbers, by Numbered Account's son Polish Numbers.

Happy Numbers was 10 when offered at the 2010 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December mixed sale. "Her previous trip through the sales ring [in 2006] was for $120,000 – we bought her as a barren mare for $1,200," said Chip. "One penny on the dollar."

The goal was to breed her to Not For Love, out of Polish Numbers' half-sister Dance Number. The combination was a success as the mating produced Get the Sensation, who won four straight at Charles Town in early 2015, including two stakes.

Of Happy Numbers' seven named foals for the Daniels, four were stakes horses, led by Dr. Feelgood, who won 13 of 15 starts. Happy Numbers, 25, was retired after delivering a colt in 2022.

"She lives outside with another mare," said Chip Daniel. "I think she still looks wonderful for a 25-year-old horse."

Three of her daughters are in production, including recently retired multiple stakes winner Great Spirit.

The 5-year-old daughter of Great Notion was bred for the first time in early March to Dialed In. The cross replicates the pedigree of 2024 stakes-winning filly Determined Driver – by Dialed In out of a Great Notion mare, in turn out of a Polish Numbers mare.

Great Spirit's year-older half-sister Get Lucky (by Giant Surprise) has a yearling filly by Dialed In the Daniels are excited about, so it was a breeding worth trying.

Happy Numbers' daughter Stefani's Surprise was not bred by the Daniels but became part of their broodmare band after being acquired from Kristy Petty.

John Casey purchased the winning Stephen Got Even mare in 2011 while she was carrying her first foal, and for Petty she produced stakes winners Hessica and Hear the Chatter – who combined won nine stakes and nearly $800,000 – stakes-placed Imagoodchatterbug and two other winners from six foals.

Now 18, Stefani's Surprise hasn't been the most fertile recently. She is booked to Blofeld. "His fertility has been very high," said Daniel of the choice. "I didn't want stallion fertility to be an issue whatsoever." Get Lucky was bred to the Murmur Farm sire in early March.

The Daniels purchased a share in Not For Love in the mid-2000s and a 2007 breeding produced multiple stakes-placed $217,421 earner Ideal Thoughts. Her dam, Holly's Promise, was a year-younger half-sister to one of Chip Daniel's first broodmares, Goldendeoro.

Daniel acquired Goldendeoro off the track in November 1998 after she foundered for her previous owner. With time and dedication, Goldendeoro – a member of the successful family of Gala Goldie – became the dam of stakes winners Original Gold (her first foal, born in 2000) and Gold Standard from four foals.

Daniel lost Goldendeoro after she broke a leg in a field accident in 2006. He found Holly's Promise, a daughter of Corporate Report (by Private Account, himself out of Numbered Account) on the Starquine website that same year. Ideal Thoughts was her first foal for the Daniels. The second was stakes-placed $194,000 earner Primary Account.

Ideal Thoughts is due to Juba in May, after producing what Daniel described as probably her best foal last year, a colt by Fiber Sonde. "Her babies are always well-balanced," said Daniel. "He's a little bigger than normal for her. Take balance and large and put it together – it's hard to beat." From her four foals of racing age, three are winners, including $427,910 earner Hypothesis, a winner of 13 races, seven in stakes.

Sticking with families helps develop similar dispositions and similar attributes, said Daniel, whose mares reside on a rented property a short distance from historic Greystone in Shenandoah Junction, a farm that's been in his family for more than 250 years.

– Cindy Deubler

Casual Kiss and Goodnight Angel find new spring grass at Thornmar Farm in Maryland.

Stone Cold Flirt and Julie B

Marilyn Moonroe, Pepperoni Tony. . . Pork Chop Pete. They're just three of the names for the offspring of O'Sullivan Farms and Alex Kazdan's Stone Cold Flirt. Pork Chop Pete made a name for himself when first or second in 10 of 11 starts last year at 3, including four stakes placings behind the likes of older runners Duncan Idaho, Penguin Power and Jubawithatwist.

"He's the best horse I have in the barn right now," said John Funkhouser, whose family has owned and operated West Virginia's oldest Thoroughbred farm since 1939.

Stone Cold Flirt came to the Charles Town farm from New York in 2020 and foaled the Bustin Stones filly Bella Mela, a stakes-placed runner the past two years. Kazdan asked Funkhouser if he'd want in on the winning daughter of Yes It's True. "I like the mare," said Funkhouser. "She's a good-looking mare, has good-looking foals. We now have six mares together."

Pork Chop Pete is the first racehorse for the partnership. The son of O'Sullivan stallion Golden Years had earned $147,568 through March 18. Stone Cold Flirt's yearling Pepperoni Tony is also by Golden Years. "She had the very last foal for us last year [May 6] and we tried her back and she didn't take," said Funkhouser, who booked Stone Cold Flirt to Maclean's Music this year.

Several O'Sullivan foals carry family names.

"One of the things I always try to do here is name a horse after each one of my family members," said Funkhouser. "I have almost 30 cousins and lots of aunts and uncles so I'm kind of on a mission to name one after everybody."

Sometimes without planning it happens that way. Case in point: Pork Chop Pete.

"We didn't name him on the farm," Funkhouser said. "He was in South Carolina to be broke and when he came back, he had a name tag on him that said, Pork Chop. I questioned Robbie Shuler, who broke him."

Shuler told Funkhouser the nickname came from farm staffers in honor of his "hog jowls and big, lovable face." Funkhouser told Kazdan, who took it all one step further.

"I have a cousin we all call Pork Chop and his name is Pete," Kazdan said.

"How about we name the horse Pork Chop Pete?" Funkhouser replied.

And so it came to be.

Funkhouser added that Marilyn Moonroe is not named after anybody they know, "But she's out of Stone Cold Flirt and [Marilyn Monroe] was a stone cold flirt."

O'Sullivan Farms' best racemare, 22-year-old Julie B, was due in mid-March to O'Sullivan's first-year sire My Prankster.

"It'll probably be her last one," said Funkhouser of the $890,030 earner who captured 15 of 33 starts, including two runnings of the Cavada Breeders Classic, and was stakes-placed away from Charles Town including Aqueduct's Ladies Handicap. "She's thrown nothing but winners. You always want to breed the good ones until it's not feasible anymore. After this one she will have a home forever."

Unruly Julie, a 9-year-old daughter of The Factor and Julie B, retired at the end of 2023 after winning seven of 38 starts, including that year's Nellie Mae Cox Stakes at Colonial Downs, while earning $238,899. She's in foal to Frosted.

O'Sullivan has 34 mares to foal this year out of 44 owned. Of those, seven are 50/50 partnership mares. But the farm remains one of the busiest in the region.

"Last year we foaled out 74 mares," said Funkhouser. "This year we'll probably foal 65-70 mares. All are Thoroughbreds except for a Cleveland Bay or two every year."

– Cindy Deubler

Casual Kiss and Goodnight Angel

Fillies born at Cynthia and Charlie McGinneses' Thornmar Farm in Chestertown, Md., have a way of finding their way home. "You never can give up on a good family even if you have to skip a generation," said Cynthia McGinnes.

Put Casual Kiss and Goodnight Angel on the list.

Casual Kiss is the granddaughter of Foolish Kisses, a stakes-winning Cannonade filly bred by the McGinneses and foaled in 1991. Casual Kiss was born at Thornmar in 2008, was purchased by agent Buzz Chace for $20,000 at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale, and joined Arnold Heft's racing stable. In training with Tim Keefe, the filly never raced after injuring her pelvis in a starting gate accident.

Heft, in his 90s and in failing health, was looking to find a home for the daughter of champion Dehere. Despite the injury concerns, the McGinneses took the filly back, kept Keefe as a partner, and have seen the mare produce nine foals. All six starters are winners.

Casual Kiss' best runners, graded stakes winner Still Having Fun and 2024 Conniver Stakes winner Too Many Kisses, are by Unbridled's Song sons Old Fashioned and Arrogate, respectively. The crossing of the Unbridled's Song line with Dehere mares has been extremely successful and this year the McGinneses got a call from Jon Ebbert, who raced Arrogate's champion son Arcangelo, to ask about breeding Casual Kiss to the classic winner.

It was perfect timing, as she wasn't in foal – the McGinneses don't send mares to Kentucky with foals at their sides. Casual Kiss last delivered a Great Notion filly in May 2024. The mare heads to Kentucky this year.

Early in 1991, the McGinneses came home from the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic February mixed sale with the Lord Gaylord mare Muffies Muffin. The stakes winner was carrying her third foal (by Baederwood) and cost $26,000. She went on to a long and productive career, became the dam of four stakes winners, including the multiple graded winner of $671,616, Wicapi, and through her daughters, granddaughters and beyond, her line carries on. Among the runners representing her this year is great-grandson Passion Rules, a Triple Crown-nominated 3-year-old by Friesan Fire out of Goodnight Angel.

After a March 14 allowance win for Calumet Farm and trainer Brad Cox at Oaklawn Park, Passion Rules is undefeated in three starts.

Goodnight Angel is a daughter of Oneminutetomidnite, the 11th and final foal the McGinneses bred out of Muffies Muffin. Sold by her breeders for $20,000 at the Keeneland September yearling sale, Goodnight Angel ran in the region, won three times, and made her last start Jan. 1, 2016, at Laurel for a $4,500 tag.

She found her way back to her birthplace. Since 2018, Goodnight Angel was bred to Maryland sires but after Passion Rules turned heads as a yearling in 2023 she went to Kentucky stallion Take Charge Indy, like Friesan Fire a son of A.P. Indy. The decision turned out to be a mistake as Goodnight Angel came home empty.

"These mares are funny," said McGinnes. "You have to pick these horses' personalities. She hadn't been off the farm in like eight years. We thought she'd be a good one to send down there. She got there and wouldn't eat or do anything. She walked the fence. She lost a lot of weight. Then she started pooling urine. Now she's home and has gained 200 pounds."

This year she has a date with Northview Stallion Station sire Engage, a decision made in part because she generally has big foals when bred to A.P. Indy-line sires, according to McGinnes: "And we don't want her to stretch out and start pooling urine anymore."

That and there's no place like home.

"She wasn't happy in Kentucky," McGinnes said. "She likes her farm."

– Cindy Deubler

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Love of Horses

SPEED KING JOINS LIST OF STARS BRED, RAISED BY SHUFORD

By Liane Crossley

For Nancy Shuford, raising Thoroughbreds is all about the animals. Instead of focusing on what prices they might bring at auction or which youngsters will grow into stars at the track, she enjoys her herd.

So, when a foal arrived at her Rock House Farm in Hickory, N.C., weeks after his Kentucky birth, she saw no difference between him and the others. Three years later, that colt from the first crop of Volatile moved to the head of the Rock House Farm class of 2022. Now known as Speed King, he stamped himself as an early contender on the Kentucky Derby-G1 trail with his front-running victory in the Southwest Stakes-G3 at Oaklawn Park in Arkansas Jan. 25.

Like a proud mama, Shuford was fittingly elated with the triumph but stifled any Derby dreams.

"Oh no I don't think about that," she said. "I just hope he stays sound and keeps running. You just take one day at a time."

Shuford does not recall anything specific about Speed King, who subsequently finished 10th of 13 in the Rebel Stakes-G2 at Oaklawn Feb. 23.

"I like the animal," she said. "I like to look at them every day. I don't want to board them in Kentucky year-round."

Shuford's more than 45 years as a commercial breeder prove that her program of rotating her band between states works. With about 20 mares in her portfolio, she sticks to a system. She sends the mares in advance of delivery dates to Jody and Michelle Huckabay's Elm Tree Farm in Paris, Ky. After foaling, the mares are bred to Kentucky stallions selected by Shuford and return to North Carolina when confirmed pregnant. After being weaned in North Carolina, the babies go back to Elm Tree to be prepared for weanling auctions. Later-maturing youngsters retained for yearling sales remain with Shuford until the following spring. That group then ships to the Huckabays around the time the pregnant mares come home. The yearlings receive a strong foundation by Shuford's small and dedicated barn crew prior to their official sales preparation.

"We bring the horses in and play with them and do what we need to do here," she said. "I'm lucky my crew loves what they do."

Shuford's method means her horses do not meet the residency requirements to be registered for the Kentucky Thoroughbred Development Fund. The certification gives Kentucky-breds the chance to earn bonus purse money within the state and to theoretically bring larger auction prices.

"Keeping them in Kentucky would be the smart thing to do monetarily, but I like seeing them," she said. "They give me a reason to get up in the morning. I have always wanted them here with me."

North Carolina has no racetrack for flat racing, and no financial incentives for breeders, though Shuford said she doesn't mind.

Shuford's logical and philosophical outlook has played a key role in her business model. Well aware of the proverbial roller coaster that is the Thoroughbred industry, she takes the good with the bad while looking forward, not back.

A recent example revolves around Athenian Beauty, dam of Speed King. Shuford purchased the winning daughter of Corinthian in foal to Verrazano for $125,000 at the 2016 Keeneland November sale. Collectively, her subsequent foals attracted at least enough money to cover expenses, but did not do well on the track.

RENEE TORBIT / COADY PHOTOGRAPHY

Raised in North Carolina by breeder Nancy Shuford, Speed King won Oaklawn Park's Southwest Stakes in January to earn valuable Kentucky Derby points and was breezing bullets at the Arkansas track in March.

Shuford offered her in foal to Early Voting at the same Keeneland sale in 2023, but bought her back on a final bid of $27,000 and later sold her privately. Following Speed King's Southwest score, Athenian Beauty sold for $150,000 (in foal to Caracaro) to Marylander Matt Dorman's Determined Stud at Fasig-Tipton Kentucky's mixed sale in February.

"I'm sorry now that I sold her, but at the time she had not produced much," Shuford said. "You win some, you lose some."

Sometimes staying close to even can feel like a win as is the case with Speed King, who sold as a Keeneland weanling for $85,000.

"I was able to pay my vet bills and feed bills," she said.

On the winning side stands Bashful Bertie, who churned out seven six-figure Keeneland auction offspring for Shuford including three-time Grade 1 winner and Breeders' Cup Turf-G1 runner-up Beach Patrol. The son of Lemon Drop Kid was the second of those high sellers as a weanling at the 2013 Keeneland November sale for $250,000. Bashful Bertie, by Quiet American, lost all four starts but had a packed pedigree page when Shuford purchased her for $90,000 in foal to Mr. Greeley at Keeneland November in 2010.

Shuford could easily rattle off the statistics about that streak of horses who averaged about $400,000 at auction and

> " I started with inexpensive horses, but realized that if I wanted to be in the Thoroughbred business that I had to move up the ladder a little bit."
>
> *–Nancy Shuford*

how Bashful Bertie turned out to be a bargain who generates more than her share of income for the program.

But Shuford's initial description reflects her genuine love for horses.

"She's such a sweet mare," she said. "You can do anything with her."

Full circle twice

Shuford took a circuitous path to the business of raising Thoroughbreds. Born and raised in North Carolina, she left after marrying Alex Shuford, whose family founded Century Furniture in Hickory. Their son Alex III is CEO of the third-generation company founded in 1947. The business boasts an abundance of high-end products and services and nearly 1,000 employees.

After her husband completed his U.S. Navy service, the couple moved to New York City where he completed business school at Columbia University. Returning to their home state with their first born, they opted to live in the country where they would add three more children on a 225-acre former dairy farm.

"We fell in love with it and the house that was built in the 1780s," she said. "We spent a lot of time fixing it up. I wanted to do something with the land. We had cows, but that was not very exciting."

Horses had been part of Shuford's life especially when her daughter, Eliza Shuford Hucks, was a decorated show-jumping rider. She was a member of the U.S. Equestrian Team and a leader on the Grand Prix circuit. She then started the longterm endeavor of raising show horses.

"They have to be going around a ring doing their tricks and they were six or seven years old before you could get any money for them," Shuford said. "So, we started with Thoroughbreds at the low end and sold them as weanlings and yearlings."

Through show-horse connections, Shuford became friends with Libby and the late Bayne Welker Sr. Then based in North Carolina, the Welkers relocated to Central Kentucky around 1980 and were so respected for raising and consigning Thoroughbreds that they were named Farm Managers of the Year in 1996.

"I started with inexpensive horses, but realized that if I wanted to be in the Thoroughbred business that I had to move up the ladder a little bit," Shuford said.

A rung on that ladder included one of her earliest employees, a high school-aged Michelle Huckabay. After marrying Jody and establishing Elm Tree, Michelle reunited with Shuford when she became a client more than 25 years ago.

"She loves her horses 100 percent," Jody Huckabay said. "There is never a question about spending money when something needs to be done veterinary- or farrier-wise. The horse comes first with her. She's easy to sell for because she wants to sell, not race. She sets very reasonable reserves because she wants them to go to new homes. We've had really good luck together and we've had bad luck. She takes the bad luck just as well as she takes the good luck. She might get upset about the bad luck, but never with anybody. It is hard to find people like that." ■

AT A GLANCE

WHO: Nancy Shuford
WHAT: North Carolina-based commercial breeder
WHEN: Circa 1980
WHERE: Rock House Farm, Hickory
WHY: "I like the animal."

HONOR ROLL

LEADING RUNNERS BRED BY NANCY SHUFORD

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A Lifer

BARGAIN BARBADIAN RUNNER TAKES VETERAN TRAINER TO TOP

By Sean Clancy

"He's loving life."

That's how Henry Walters described his big horse, Barbadian Runner, in early March. And what's not to love? The Maryland-bred 3-year-old had just won two stakes and a reward. A month holiday from Laurel Park at Brenda Godfrey's Nor Mar Farm in Freeland, Md.

That's old school. Because Walters is old school. A 69-year-old lifer who could have his best horse in his 45th season as a hands-on, throw-back, born-and-bred Maryland horse trainer.

"He's run so hard. I watched the replay of his last race, he was so determined, his little legs were going so fast at the end," Walters said after the $100,000 Miracle Wood Stakes at Laurel Park Feb. 22. "I thought about giving him a little break before that and figured I better do it now, so I have a fresh horse in the spring."

Purchased for $5,000 at the 2023 Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale by Scott Groh and campaigned by his AJ Will Win Stable, the son of Barbados put together a 10-race campaign. It began with a fourth in a waiver maiden claimer at Laurel in June and finished with hard-fought, legs-going-fast wins in the Spectacular Bid Stakes in January and the Miracle Wood a month later.

In the 10 starts – one each in June, July, August, September, two in October, two in December last year plus the two stakes as a 3-year-old – the overachieving gelding has three wins, two seconds and three thirds for $197,445. He's $14,736 away from becoming Walters' leading earner, the hard-hitting stakes-placed claimer Tommy Shelby, at the top. That could come in a spring return which could include the James W. Murphy Stakes on the turf at Pimlico Race Course on Preakness Day.

"I really don't have anything pinpointed. He's obviously lost his conditions in these stake races. Between the dirt and the grass, I've got options," Walters said. "He has run on the grass before, and I was pretty impressed with the way he ran on the grass. There are some races down the road. You never know until you try, he's answered all the questions so far."

The first big one was the day Walters and Groh saw the Shamrock Farm-bred colt at Timonium. On the short list in Groh's pedigree system, the dark bay colt passed Walters' conformation test. Looking for one or two horses at the annual sale, they dug deep.

"We were happy to get him for five. We might have gone to eight. Maybe 10. I hate to pay more for them than I think they're going to go for, there's a little wiggle room but I'm not going to pay $20,000 for a horse who should bring 10," Walters said. "Scott does a lot of research. He uses some number formula and gave me something like 12 horses. We go down the line and whichever one falls in our price range. Who's to say how we wound up with him? It's a lot of luck involved."

Walters knew quickly that they got lucky with Barbadian Runner. He finished fourth in his debut, a 5-furlong $45,000 maiden claimer (waived as a Maryland-bred) June 30, and came right back to win the same condition July 20.

"He's always been a horse who was always competitive, everybody that's ever been on him said he's going to be OK," Walters said. "It was his second race when he impressed me the most. He was lagging behind and about the three-sixteenths pole, he ducked to the rail and took off like a jet."

Second in two open allowance races, he finished a roughed-up sixth in the Maryland Million Nursery. He rallied to finish

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

Barbadian Runner and trainer Henry Walters opened 2025 with back-to-back stakes wins.

third when stretched to a mile in his turf debut at Laurel in October. Introduced to Forest Boyce, Barbadian Runner finished third in the Maryland Juvenile Dec. 7 and the Heft Dec. 28 before snapping a six-race losing streak with a head victory in the Spectacular Bid and a nose triumph in the Miracle Wood.

"It's a lot of fun. I try to keep it as low key as possible, I don't particularly like all the attention that goes with it, I like to stay low key," Walters said. "It's been great for Scott, it's his first stake horse. He's having a lot of fun with him and he's a great owner."

The first great owner was Charles W. Walters Sr. One of 14 children, he left school in third grade to work in the family's produce business on the Baltimore streets. Walters delivered produce from a horse and wagon, met his future wife while peddling potatoes down alleyways and built "Cheap Charlie" vegetables into a big enough business that it supported Henry and his eight siblings. Food on the table and horses in the barn.

"I don't know if that's where his love for horses came from, but he started with a horse and a pony and a wagon," Walters said of his father. "He was a very intelligent man without a whole lot of education. He was the oldest boy and his father died young, he had to quit school to support his family."

Charles Walters Sr. loved the racetrack. First as a bettor and then as an owner and never too far away from the Barbadian Runner model. Inexpensive, hardscrabble horses, some claimed, some purchased at Timonium back when the pavilion was a tent, in cow-palace territory these days.

"I've always been hands on and I'm 69 years old and I don't foresee me being that hands on for that much longer. I would like to keep doing it, but I know I have to give up the hands-on responsibilities."

– Trainer Henry Walters

"We followed our dad to the track. He was a big race fan and he owned a few cheap horses," Walters said. "He got in a situation where he had some sore horses and didn't know what to do with them. He found a farm, rented it and turned them out. When they were ready to go back to the track, we were all leaving high school at the same time and we had an interest enough to start like that."

Older brother John carried the trainer's license while Henry and younger brother David rubbed, walked, hustled and learned the game. Eventually David branched out on his own and Henry followed, all with help from their father, who died in 1996, and other brothers who jumped in as owners whenever they could.

David Walters made it big at Charles Town, banging out 1,591 winners the hard way and is still at it. John ran it up early, winning anywhere from six to 39 races every year from 1976 to 1991 and now trains a horse or two as a retirement plan. Who needs golf?

"We all started about the same time. We all had a love, a passion for racing," Walters said. "You make quite a few mistakes, and I guess as long as you learn from those mistakes, it's a good education."

And a good life.

Walters married Tina Ridgely, raised daughters Kayla and Rebecca (the latter married trainer Mark Beecher and works in the sport) and now has three grandchildren. And his best horse.

"Purchasing these horses, I'm just hoping for horses to win races. I don't go there looking to buy a stake horse. You just look for a horse who's your type and can be successful, whether it's a $5,000 claimer or a stake horse," Walters said. "I always kept my numbers small so I could do it and at the same time raise a family. You always cheat your family out of family life when you're in this game. I always tried to keep it small enough to where I could still do some family stuff."

Walters hung his first webbing in 1980, sending out five runners while bouncing between Timonium and Pimlico, back when the sport was filled with do-it-yourself trainers with a handful of horses. Every barn was a patchwork of horsemen, a variety pack of hope. Winless that year, he won his first race in 1981 when Kurts Devil landed a maiden claimer at Keystone. Two years later, Walters won 10 races. Eleven years later, the total had slipped to two. Four years later, back to 11. Four years in a row with at least 10 wins. One year dipping to a single win. Another year with zero. Back to nine wins last season. Yeah, you know his style and get the drift: a throwback horseman, a finite number of stalls and a desire to keep it that way.

"To survive in the business that long, it takes a lot of dedication, I guess. I've been able to stay in it. Most of the years, you're just breaking even but it's been fun," Walters said. "I'm weaning down. I've always been hands on and I'm 69 years old and I don't foresee me being that hands on for that much longer. I would like to keep doing it, but I know I have to give up the hands-on responsibilities."

Yes, those hands-on responsibilities learned from a city-slick huckster with a pony and a wagon, a tried-and-true Baltimorean who loved the racetrack and brothers who couldn't – wouldn't – see past the shedrow rail.

"It was all we cared about. We got bit by the bug. John, David and myself, we got bit by the horse bug," Walters said. "Dad would be proud, I guess. That's where we all got our education, from his horses. It cost him a lot of money for our education in horses. He would look back and think maybe it paid off."

Barbadian Runner is doing his part.

NOTES: The Miracle Wood shared the Feb. 22 card with the $100,000 Wide Country for 3-year-old fillies. Frank Sample's homebred **Onyx Ten** looked like a mirror image to Barbadian Runner as she also won her second consecutive stakes and third race in 10 lifetime starts. Like Barbadian Runner, Onyx Ten lost her debut, won her second start and lost her next six before winning her first two starts as a 3-year-old. Trained by Gary Capuano, Onyx Ten took over from leader Safe Trust near the eighth pole and won the $100,000 Wide Country by a length. The daughter of Street Magician was produced from Sample's Rock Hard Ten mare

BARRIE B. REIGHTLER

Barbadian Runner, with trainer Henry Walters, owner Scott Groh and wife Pam, enjoyed a few weeks of down time at Nor Mar Farm last month while eyeing a spring return.

Chattolanee, who won twice in nine starts . . . A week before the Wide Country and Miracle Wood, Laurel hosted four stakes headlined by the traditional winter fixtures the Barbara Fritchie and General George stakes. Run as listed stakes after losing their Grade 3 status, they drew fields of five and six respectively. Kentucky-bred **Irish Maxima** won the $200,000 Fritchie for Irish Three Racing and trainer John Servis. The $50,000 Fasg-Tipton Midlantic May 2-year-old purchase won for the seventh time in 10 starts while pushing her bankroll to $419,915. Maryland-bred **Quint's Brew** (featured in the March edition) added the $200,000 General George to his growing list of achievements for owners/breeders Paul Berube, Karen Linnell and Heather Hunter. Trained by Ned Allard, the son of Mosler won for the fourth time (with a second) in five starts while pushing his earnings to $246,240 . . . Maryland-bred **Speedyness** won the $100,000 John B. Campbell for Morris Kernan and trainer Jamie Ness' Jagger Inc. The son of Great Notion and the Include mare Hartigan, third in the Not For Love Stakes March 8, has won seven of 18 lifetime. For more, see the *Maryland Horse* newsletter . . . SF Racing's **Sea Dancer** won the $100,000 Nellie Morse, which scratched down to four runners, for trainer Brittany Russell. The Kentucky-bred daughter of Mastery has won two stakes at Laurel after winning twice in 13 tries in New York, Kentucky and California . . . The March 8 card featured two stakes for Maryland-breds. Jay Williamson's homebred **Stickwiththecolors** captured the $75,000 Conniver for fillies and mares by a neck over Malibu Moonshine. Trained by John Salzman Jr., the winner scored for the second time this year and became a stakes winner in her 10th lifetime start. She is one of seven winners produced by Williamson's mare Parade of Colors. For more, see mares feature in this edition . . . One race later, **Circle P** won the $75,000 Not For Love for DeSales 85 and trainer Flint Stites. Bred by Marathon Farms, the son of Speightster finished third in the Jennings and sixth in the General George – races won by Quint's Brew – in his previous two starts. ■

Full Circle

MARYLAND-BREDS PLAY BIG ROLE IN FASIG-TIPTON FEBRUARY DIGITAL SALE

By Alí Çetinock

The Fasig-Tipton February digital sale proved to be a major success for Maryland connections, showcasing the state's breeding program and the value of well-bred and well-prepared horses. Two standout sales – Hip 41, a 2-year-old colt by Maryland's leading sire Great Notion, and Intrepid Daydream, a stakes-winning daughter of Jess's Dream – each commanded a six-figure price and drew attention from regional and national players.

For Hip 41, the sale was a full-circle moment, tying together generations of Maryland breeders and stallion operations. The colt was purchased for $180,000 by Michael Golden, co-owner of Northview Stallion Station with his sister Lisa Golden Hofstetter. South Carolina consignor Cary Frommer purchased him as a yearling for $35,000 from breeder Bowman and Higgins Stable and consignor Becky Davis at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale last year.

Adding to the sentimental value, Golden's father Richard bred the colt's dam, Fly Girl, through his Sycamore Hall Farm program. Now, the young horse returns home to join Maryland trainer Brittany Russell.

For Davis, the colt always stood out, not just for his conformation but for his presence and somewhat playful attitude.

"He is one that I really liked," Davis said. "It wouldn't have mattered who his sire was – I just liked him. I happen to really like his mother. I have sort of an affection for her. She's a really nice, sweet mare. Sometimes that gives me a little bias, but as a racehorse prospect, it doesn't."

Fly Girl won twice in 13 starts for Richard Golden and trainer Graham Motion, placing second in the 2015 Maryland Million Lassie before being purchased by Davis on behalf of Bowman and Higgins Stable for $25,000 at Fasig-Tipton Midlantic's 2020 December mixed sale. Two of her three foals to race are winners, and Davis saw the Great Notion colt's potential early.

"He had the qualities that made me think he would be a decent racehorse," she said. "He definitely seemed like a young athlete. From the summer on, I kept making notes about him – like, 'I really like this one.' "

His attitude, while a sign of the mentality needed by a racehorse, required guidance.

"He was a handful, to be honest," Davis said. "He was pretty stubborn in the beginning. We had to adjust where he was turned out because he wanted to be the boss. Some horses are pushy, but he was just very forward-thinking. He wasn't mean or aggressive, just determined. We actually had to switch his main handler midway through the summer because he needed a little more man strength."

Davis compared him to 2024 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year Post Time, who came through the program (and was purchased by Frommer) three years earlier.

"He was always quirky," Davis said of Post Time. "His quirks became more exaggerated as he got bigger and stronger. This one wasn't quirky in the same way. He just had that 'Look at me' attitude – he commanded attention and had a presence of confidence about him."

That self-assurance led to the sales ring, where Frommer spent $35,000 on the pinhooking prospect. Nearly five months later, she got five times that. The colt brought the fifth-highest price at the sale, and was the second most-expensive 2-year-old behind a sales-topping Yaupon colt at $250,000.

A Maryland-bred colt by Great Notion out of the Jump Start mare Fly Girl sold for $180,000 at Fasig-Tipton's digital sale in February.

"He is really beautiful to look at, very legitimate," Frommer said. "He doesn't do anything wrong ever. He never takes a bad step. He just always tries to do what you ask of him and do it better than anybody else."

For Michael Golden, the colt wasn't just another horse – he was a tie to his family's legacy and the Maryland breeding program.

"My dad raised Fly Girl, and Fly Girl is by Jump Start, who I think is going to turn out to be a really good broodmare sire," Golden said. "He's already produced a couple of very nice horses as a broodmare sire. So, that attracted me to this horse, and, of course, Great Notion has just been such a great stallion for us."

Richard Golden bred the colt's first three dams – the stakes-winning and stakes-producing Relaunch mare Set to Fly, her Not For Love daughter I Love to Fly (whose foals include seven winners) and Fly Girl. Bringing the colt back to Maryland was an intentional move, Golden said.

"Him being a Maryland-bred, we'd be able to appreciate the Maryland program, potentially getting some breeder or owner and developer awards," said Golden, whose father died in 2021.

Intrepid Daydream, the 2023 Maryland-bred Horse of the Year, brought $190,000 as a broodmare prospect. Though a step removed from her breeder Larry Fowler, she continued to hold strong value in the marketplace. Kentucky's Mulholland Springs made the purchase with an immediate plan to breed her to Into Mischief, North America's leading sire.

The 5-year-old goes back to Fowler's $6,000 purchase of yearling Hongkong Tour in 2006. She won her first four starts for trainer Gary Capuano, lost her fifth and became a broodmare. Her daughter Intrepid Tour never raced, but also

JIM MCUE

Intrepid Daydream won 2023 Maryland Million Distaff for owner/breeder Larry Fowler and trainer Gary Capuano.

joined the broodmare band. Her four foals to race are all winners, including Intrepid Daydream's stakes-winning full-sister Intrepid Dream. Racing for Fowler and Capuano through November 2023, Intrepid Daydream won seven races including three stakes before selling privately to Miller Racing and trainer Saffie Joseph Jr. For the new connections, she placed in a Grade 3 stakes, but lost all five starts before entering the digital sale.

"I actually think she probably would have brought more at a different sale," said new owner John Henry Mulholland. "I don't think I had to pay that much for her, really, for a graded-stakes mare."

Mulholland liked her pedigree, size, conformation and race record.

"She's a big, stretchy mare – 16.2 hands, big shoulder, good hip, nice body," he said in early March. "At $190,000, she was actually a good value. She's going to Into Mischief in a couple of days. We've already got her on the books to breed."

Mulholland has had success breeding similar mares to Into Mischief.

"I've had a lot of luck breeding those big, stretchy mares to Into Mischief," he said. "That's the kind of mare I bred to him several years ago, and I ended up with [Grade 2 winner and sire] Maximus Mischief."

The Maryland-bred results underscore the growing role of digital auctions in the marketplace as this sale was part of Fasig-Tipton's initiative to offer 2-year-olds through its digital platform, a move that was well-received by buyers and sellers.

"I don't think we're ever going to lose in-person sales," Mulholland said. "But with all the pictures and videos available now, people are becoming more comfortable buying online, especially for broodmares and racehorses. If you can place a few horses on the digital market and still make money, it's a good thing. I think it has a place in the market."

The February sale – which included racehorses, racehorse/broodmare prospects, broodmares, 2-year-olds and yearlings – produced gross receipts of $5,080,500 from 163 horses sold, for an average of $31,168.

Thirteen 2-year-olds were offered with video, photo and veterinary information but without timed workouts. Nine sold for $600,000, an average of $66,667. The only other Maryland-bred juvenile offered, a Frosted colt out of Manhattan Madam, was retained by Frommer after he didn't meet his reserve on a bid of $145,000. ■

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Work Trip

MARYLAND-BRED TIMONIUM PURCHASE BRINGS $1 MILLION AT OBS

By Joe Clancy

Don't get David Scanlon wrong, looking at yearlings anywhere qualifies as work, but he and wife Blair consider an annual trip to the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic fall yearling sale something of a vacation.

"We love it," the Florida horseman said in mid-March. "We don't vacation a whole lot and my wife jokes that our vacations are at horse sales. We go to Texas and we go to Baltimore . . . we stay at the new Marriott in Owings Mills, we always look forward to our meals at Liberatore's, we've gone to a Ravens game when it works out."

Oh, and they buy nice horses.

The latest discovery, a Nyquist colt who cost $150,000 in October, turned into a $1 million pinhooking score on a bid by agent Shannon Potter at the Ocala Breeders' Sales Company's 2-year-old sale March 13 in Ocala, Fla.

Bred in Maryland by Bowman and Higgins Stable, the bay colt from the Midnight Lute mare Alottalute was quickly named Epic Quest and headed to trainer Todd Pletcher for new owner Epic Horses. A half-brother to regional stakes winners Street Lute and Alottahope, the colt was one of seven

Pellinor Lane Farm Stallions for 2025

Barbados

Speightstown–Northern Station, Street Cry (Ire)

- Grade 3 winner of $377,241
- By champion and leading sire **SPEIGHTSTOWN**
- **$60,718 A.E./STARTER**
- Sire of stakes winners **BARBADIAN RUNNER, STREET WARRIOR** and stakes-placed **Hap Hot** (10 wins in 30 starts, $230,931), **Island Philo**($152,180) and additional top earners Sue Loves Barbados ($240,679, 31 on-the-board finishes in 46 starts), Albertano (10 wins in 42 starts, $221,781)

Bullsbay

Tiznow–The Hess Express, by Lord Carson

- **$57,499 A.E./STARTER**
- Grade 1 Whitney winner of $923,245 and track record setter at Del Mar going a mile in 1:36.23
- By horse of the year **TIZNOW**
- Sire of multiple stakes winners **MAYTHEHORSEBWITHU** ($337,796), **GREATBULLSOFFIRE** ($232,350), **UNRIDEABULL** ($206,679), **MISS BULLISTIC** ($183,270), **Bullheaded Boy** ($414,663), etc.

Mr. Monomoy

Palace Malice–Drumette, by Henny Hughes

- **First crop 3-year-olds of 2025**
- Grade 2 Risen Star S winner; third in Grade 3 Lecomte S
- 2 wins in 5 starts, $327,162
- By **CURLIN**'s good son **PALACE MALICE** ($2,691,135), G1 winner of Belmont S at 3 and G1 Metropolitan H at 4
- Half-brother to champion **MONOMOY GIRL**, from the sterling family of champion **HEAVENLY CAUSE**

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OBS PHOTOS/PENELOPE P. MILLER

horses to bring $1 million or more at OBS – and the only regional-bred.

Scanlon didn't predict a seven-figure pricetag, but also knew the colt (who breezed a furlong in :10) looked like a player in the three-day sale which averaged $152,351.

"I was thinking he was a $500,000 horse in my wildest dreams, you don't want to get ahead of yourself," Scanlon said. "It wasn't much of a turnaround time [between sales], but he took everything. He was just blossoming. He had dapples all over him and looked great at the sale. We always say that if it happens organically, great. I knew there would be a large Japanese contingent there and thought that might help him along."

Scanlon paid credit to the horse's roots, too, as the colt joined Army Mule (a $35,000 to $825,000 pinhook) and Tomodachi ($235,000 to $1.3 million) on Scanlon Training and Sales' Timonium scorecard. Though the regional fall yearling sale shrunk to a single day and a catalog of 284 last year, quality horses were there.

"They're raised right, just raised right, the old-fashioned way," Scanlon said of yearlings from the Mid-Atlantic. "They haven't been schooled on real hard. They train up real well. I like buying horses like that."

The colt was part of the Becky Davis consignment and merged Kentucky sire power with a regional success story. Nyquist stood for $55,000 when the colt was bred in 2022, bumped to $85,000 in 2024 and is now $175,000. His sons and daughters include Vequist, 2-year-old filly champion of 2020, and Gretzky the Great, Canada's 2-year-old male champion of 2020. Alottalute never raced and sold $8,000 as a 3-year-old in 2014. Her first foal, a filly by Bourbon Courage, brought $1,000 and didn't run. The second, by Street Magician, was Street Lute (a 10-time winner who earned $671,530). The third, by Editorial, was Alottahope (who won five and earned $328,915).

"The mare had been bred locally and been really successful," Scanlon said. "You never know, but she was bred to a top-tier stallion and threw another athlete."

Under Scanlon's direction at Oak Ridge Farm Training Center in Morriston, Epic Quest stayed an that way.

"He really grew up nice," Scanlon said. "Obviously, he got taller, stronger, had a great mind . . . when you buy them that young, you don't really know. We watched him at the sale, and he took everything in stride, but he was the same with us. He loved to train with us, he kept his mind on his job, he was an easy keeper. He grew up better than expected. He had a good walk as a yearling, but he moved even better on the racetrack."

Far smaller than the catalog at Keeneland September, Timonium offers buyers a chance to find prospects. Scanlon shops for yearlings everywhere he can, but said Timonium suits is goals.

"It's really tough at Keeneland with all the top buyers showing up and with so many horses," he said. "Sometimes you can go to a regional market and avoid some of the top buyers. There are horses there, you just have to find them."

Making that effort feel like a vacation doesn't hurt.

NOTES: Proving a sale is not over until it is, Epic Quest sold late at both sales – as Hip 206 of 284 at Timonium and Hip 725 of 813 at OBS . . . Alottalute's foal of 2022, a still unraced Game Winner colt named A Lot of Game, sold to Larry Johnson for $95,000 last year. She did not have a foal in 2024, but was expecting a Great Notion foal this year. ■

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Sunday, March 30 **Green Spring Valley Point-to-Point** Hunt Valley
Saturday, April 5 **Elkridge-Harford Point-to-Point** Monkton
Saturday, April 12 **My Lady's Manor** Monkton
Sunday, April 13 **Mount Harmon Wicomico Hunt Point-to-Point** Earleville
Saturday, April 19 **Grand National Steeplechase** Butler
Saturday, April 26 **Maryland Hunt Cup** Glyndon
Sunday, May 18 **Potomac Hunt Races** Poolesville
Thursday, June 19 **Awards Dinner** Reisterstown
Saturday, September 27* **Legacy Chase at Shawan Downs** Hunt Valley
Sunday, October 19* **Cattail Chase Races** Brookeville

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April 2025 — Official publication of the Maryland Horse Breeders Association; Vol. 90, No. 4

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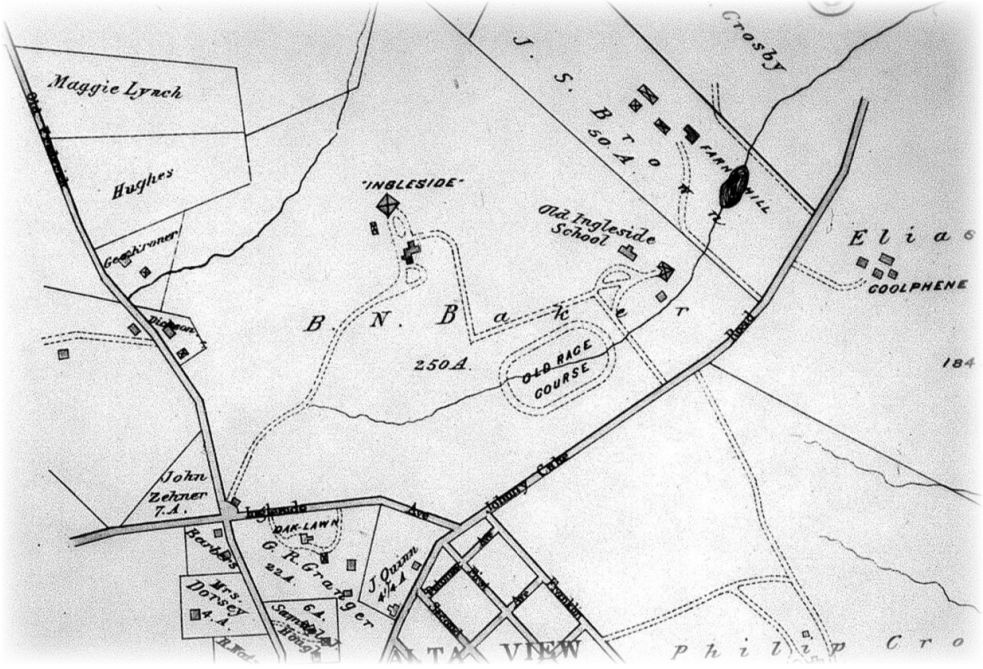
Racing history: Central Course, a mostly forgotten Maryland racetrack

By Donald Walsh



"Old Race Course", Atlas of Baltimore County, 1898 (North roughly to right)

Horse racing in Maryland began over a century before Milton H. Sanford's dark bay colt Preakness won the inaugural Dinner Party Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in 1870. In the 18th century, colonial Maryland had racetracks at Annapolis and Bladensburg. Before the Civil War, Baltimore boasted several racetracks: one near Lexington Market, one near Fort McHenry, and the Kendall Course in Canton. There were several more tracks around the city in Timonium, Govane's Town and Herring Run Park. Another track, on a suburban estate between Franklintown and Catonsville, opened in 1831 amid great fanfare and potential – the Central Course.

In the 1820s and '30s, racing was the only organized sport in the nation and was rapidly increasing in popularity. New racetracks were being built across the country. Although Baltimore already had a racetrack in Canton, it operated race meets for the Maryland Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses. The Maryland Jockey Club, founded in 1743, is the oldest sporting organization in the country.

The MJC formed a new charter in 1830, and it would conduct racing at the Central Course. With the advent of this new race course, and with the help of the earliest national sporting publication, the *American Turf Register* and *Sporting Magazine*, Maryland racing would seek to attain national prominence.

The Central Course opened almost 40 years before Pimlico. "Centrally" located between Richmond, Va., and New York, the Central Course could have become an ideal location for the Intersectional (North vs. South) races at the time. The Union Course on Long Island was the setting for almost all of the big North vs. South races, starting with the American Eclipse vs. Henry race in 1823, which drew more than 50,000 spectators. These races were milestone events in American sports, where huge crowds, massive sums wagered, and a surge in media coverage would all be signs of things to come. Racing (and sports in general) was suddenly not just a hobby for gentlemen of means, it was now a business opportunity.

The three principal people involved in this new venture near Baltimore were William Freeman, John McClurg Selden and John Stuart Skinner.

A local developer, Freeman planned the community of Franklintown at the end of his newly completed Franklin Turnpike, the most modern and scenic road out of Baltimore heading westward. Franklintown was to be a planned suburban community, similar to modern-day Columbia, Md., but more than a century earlier. Along with the residential community, Freeman also sought to develop the Franklintown Inn in 1832. The inn still stands and, while no longer a hotel, hosts events.

John McClurg Selden managed Central Course. The Selden family also managed the Tree Hill Course on its estate near Richmond. With this experience, Selden provided the land for the Central Course on his estate just outside Catonsville, called Engleside. Selden oversaw the race meets, serving in a position now called the racing secretary.

The third principal, John S. Skinner, was already deeply connected with agriculture and racing. He was an officer of the Maryland Association for the Improvement of the Breed of Horses, as well as the publisher of *The American Farmer*. Skinner served as Postmaster of Baltimore; was with Francis Scott Key as he penned the Star Spangled Banner; and

CENTRAL COURSE—SECOND DAY'S RACE.

BALTIMORE, Oct. 27.

We learn that about ten thousand people were present on the course yesterday to witness the great race for the Post Sweep Stakes of $ 4,000, four mile heats.—Six horses started in the first heat, viz:—Mr. Craig's Virginia Tayloe, Col. Wynn's James Cropper, Dr. Minge's Eliza Reily, Mr. Stevens's Black Maria, Gen. Irvine's Busiris, and Col. White's Collier.

RESULT.

	1st heat	2d heat	3d heat
Black Maria	5	1	1
Virginia Tayloe	1	2	3
Eliza Reily	2	dr.	
Collier	3	3	2
James Cropper	4	4	dis
Busiris	6	dist.	

Time, 1st heat, 8m. 3s.—2d heat, 8m. 14s.—3d heat, 8m. 3s.

Match Race for $ 1000.

After the above race, a match race, two mile heats, for 1000 dollars, took place between Mr. Stevens's filly Screamer, and Mr. Moody's filly Trifle—both three years old. The heats were very closely contested, the horses being well matched. They were both won by Trifle, the Virginia horse.

Time, 1st heat, 3m. 54s,—2d heat 3m 58s.

Third (This) Day.

Three mile heats—purse $ 500.

ENTRIES:

Dr. Jno. Minge's b. m. Eliza Reily, by Sir Archy, four years old, 97 lbs.

Col. J. P. White's b. h. Restless, by Virginian, five years old.

Col. W. R. Johnson's ch. m. Annette, by Sir Charles, four years old, 97 lbs.

Jno. C. Steven's gr. h. O'Kelly, by Eclipse, four years old, 100 lbs.

James M. Selden's ch. h. Sparrowhawk, by Sir Charles, four years old, 100 lbs.

From the *National Intelligencer*, October 27, 1831

rests in a crypt not far from Edgar Allan Poe's grave in Baltimore. Skinner became not only the corresponding secretary for the Maryland Jockey Club, but after the sale of his *American Farmer*, he edited and published *The American Turf Register*, at first the only, then the leading, sporting periodical of its day.

The Turf Register brought the Central Course to life. The correspondents and contributors for Skinner's magazine formed the local "racing beat" wherever racing meets were held. Its pages chronicled the exploits of the Antebellum giants of the American Turf: Boston, Medoc, Black Maria, Trifle and others who tested their speed and stamina at the Central Course.

Skinner deserves much of the credit for the preservation of U.S. racing history and Thoroughbred pedigrees from the 18th and early 19th centuries. In his publications, he supported the ideas that racing was how the improvement of the breed would be measured, and those improvements would result not only in more valuable livestock for owners and breeders, but also in a stronger nation.

The Central Course itself was a mile in distance, an oval shape with two straights. Because of technological advancements in time-keeping devices, Skinner in his *Turf Register* published articles about the importance of tracks being exactly a mile in length, to ensure the accuracy of running times, particularly as record times were becoming increasingly important. He would eventually publish a guide on how to geometrically lay out a course with two quarter-mile straights with a quarter-mile turn at each end. This became the standard track layout from the 1830s to the present day.

The rules of racing at the Central Course were also published in the *Turf Register* in 1830, and many clubs adopted those rules, thus Central Course's rules became the standard for most of the nation. Two rules that no longer apply to modern racing were the distance rule, where any runner who failed to finish within the allowable distance behind a heat winner was disqualified from the remaining heats; and the cool-down period, the time allowed between heats.

The Central Course grounds were surrounded by a fence of vertical timbers. Gates in the palisade would be used to control entry and charge admission by the proprietor. Carriages would cross the track and park in the infield until the conclusion of the day's races.

The first race meeting opened Oct. 25, 1831, and lasted four days. An estimated 10,000 patrons watched the second day's races featuring the Great Post Stakes. At the start/finish line was the judge's stand. Surrounding the track were a grandstand, a clubhouse (where no less than 200 gentlemen dined on opening day) and a ladies' pavilion. There were also barns with enough stalls to house 50 horses. The track and surrounding estate would also double as a stud farm during the remainder of the year.

A 5-year-old mare named Black Maria (rhymes with "pariah") was the equine star of that first meet, as she won the Great Post Stakes. Owned by John C. Stevens, the daughter of American Eclipse out of Lady Lightfoot (by Sir Archy), was bred in New York by Charles Henry Hall.

The biggest races in that era were run in multiple heats of 4 miles. A horse needed to win two heats to win the race. The cool-down period between heats was 45 minutes. Black Maria won the second and third heats to win the race and its $4,000 purse, a large sum for races of that period (most races had a purse of $500 or less).

The *Turf Register*'s correspondent "Godolphin" described the scene at Central Course: "Their immense pavilions were crowded with spectators, collected from every State in the Union. The one

Black Maria, engraving after painting by Edward Troye.

appropriated to the ladies was occupied by hundreds of the gay and beautiful of that sex, without whose smiles, the flowers of the brightest wreaths ever wove for victory, would fade and be valueless."

The evening before the final day, the Jockey Club Ball was held in the Ladies' Pavilion at the race course. In the center of the ballroom stood a large painting of Black Maria. It is possible that the tradition of painting the Preakness winner's likeness and silks on the Pimlico weathervane evolved from this painting of Black Maria at the Central Course. Skinner wrote: "Never did a ball take, or 'go off' better. The portraiture of Black Maria, as large as life, occupied a place in the centre of the ball room, where she will be succeeded, from year to year, by the winners of the Great Post stake."

Black Maria would go on to become one of the most famous horses of the 1830s. Two years prior to her Great Post Stakes victory, her first race as a 3-year-old was one of the famed North vs. South match races for $5,000, in which she beat the South's entrant, Brilliant, a 3-year-old colt by Sir Archy, in straight heats of 2 miles each. After her Central Course score, she went on to win an infamous race in 1832 at the Union Course on Long Island where she ran 20 miles (five 4-mile heats) before she was proclaimed the winner. After the race, the report in the *Turf Register* described her as "too fast for the speedy, and too strong for the stout." She raced until she was 9 years old, winning 13 of 25 races for purses totaling almost $15,000.

Racing continued at the Central Course through the mid-1830s. Race meetings at Central would be in late May and late October each year, with each generally four days long. Maryland racing fans will recognize these times of the year as when major racing days still take place: the Preakness meet at Pimlico in May, and the Maryland Million in late October at Laurel Park. Before the Maryland Million, the Washington, D.C., International was run at Laurel around this time. The Pimlico Special was also a late-year championship staple.

The advent of Central Course carried with it the potential of thousands of racegoers who would also fill Baltimore hotels, restaurants and coffee houses. But from the beginning, the track's meets were rarely as successful as they might have been. Races often had fewer runners than supposed, or expected runners did not end up competing. Such was the case with the first Great Post Stakes, where the "far-famed" mare Bonnets O'Blue was expected to run and a different horse, Virginia Taylor, ran in her place. At that time, the race entrant was the owner, who could run a horse of his or her choosing prior to the start of a given race.

Central Course's second meet in May 1832 was hurt by an outbreak of equine distemper among over 40 racehorses in Virginia, so few horses traveled from south of the Potomac to compete. Many meets were affected by heavy rain, only made worse by the presence of Dead Run, a local stream visible on the 1898 map which ran on and around the racetrack grounds. The spring 1833 meet was so affected by rains that a supplemental meet in June was offered. In an effort to mitigate the consistently wet track conditions, the proprietors covered parts of the track in "tan bark" (mulch chips). This so-called improvement was disparaged in New York in the *Spirit of the Times*, with one trainer attributing the injury to his horse to the condition of the track. Indeed, even the final race at the track in 1838 would be marred by bad weather and wet conditions.

Despite disappointments in Central Course's first years of operation, the Maryland Jockey Club continued to attempt to innovate racing by introducing a stakes race modeled after the English St. Leger. England had moved away from heat racing toward the modern form of dash racing (one heat of a shorter length) toward the end of the 18th century. The Tasker Stakes, expected to be an annual fixture during the fall meeting starting in 1834, would be an early attempt at creating an American Classic race. The race was named for Benjamin Tasker Jr., the importer and owner of the famous colonial mare Selima, described as the "earliest zealous turfite in Maryland."

The Tasker Stakes was run just once. It had only two runners (despite five entrants), and was won by the 3-year-old filly Virginia Carey. A modern American classic race would not be established until after the Civil War, with the Belmont Stakes becoming the first, in 1867. The Preakness followed in 1873; the Kentucky Derby came to be in 1875.

Regional and national financial turmoil imposed even greater hardship on racing at Central Course. The Baltimore Bank Riots of 1835 and the Panic of 1837 (a depression brought about by the lack of a central bank, declining cotton prices, investor uncertainty, and an ensuing run on banks) took with it much of the financing for Franklintown, and as a result the original allotment of residences was never completed. Racing throughout the nation suffered a decline as the country underwent its largest economic depression to date.

In October 1838, Colonel Selden held the final meeting at Central Course. His advertisement in the *Turf Register* reads: "The proprietor was undetermined until lately whether to have another meeting on this course; but at the suggestions of some of his friends he has determined to try one meeting, and regrets exceedingly that he cannot offer the same purses as

heretofore." Central Course would become just one of many racetrack casualties of the depression. Over 100 tracks in the U.S. operated in the late 1830s; by 1849, only 25 remained.

The last race on the Central Course was run Oct. 13, 1838. Boston (known first for losing a North vs. South match race to the mare Fashion in 1842; and later as the sire of the great Lexington) beat Balie Peyton, who was withdrawn after the first heat. Once again, rain made the course extremely muddy and Balie Peyton, despite having run a much celebrated 4-mile heat at the previous Central Course meet, could not run effectively under those "very heavy" conditions.

From the *Spirit of the Times*: "The odds were 4-to-1 on Boston, who went in front immediately after the start and won without a struggle. Balie Peyton's long stride and peculiar action render it impossible for him to distinguish himself as a 'mud horse,' though of undoubted foot on a good track. He was [with]drawn after one heat. Thus ended the Fall meeting on the Central, neither the Craig Plate nor the Sweepstakes being run for. Three entries were made for the Plate, which was to have been run on Wednesday, but the weather was so unpropitious it was postponed, and afterwards given up altogether."

Of this last meet, the *Spirit of the Times* stated that the meeting was "so flat and unprofitable… that we presume he [Selden] will make no further effort to sustain the Central." In 1839, Selden became a judge at Maryland's Kendall Course in Canton. The *Turf Register*, sold by Skinner in 1836, was sold again to Skinner's main competitor, William T. Porter, the publisher of the *Spirit of the Times* in New York City.

After its earlier 19th century racing days, the name of the property formerly home to the Central Course would alter slightly to "Ingleside," and pass to James Gibson, whose wife ran the Ingleside Boarding School for Girls on the estate. The name Central Course would be appended to the Herring Run course in the 1840s and '50s, but that is a different track, on the northeast side of Baltimore City. Colonel Selden died in 1842 and the Girls' School opened on the property in 1843.

Eventually the property would make its way into the hands of Bernard N. Baker, a prominent Baltimore businessman, who built a large manor, also called "Ingleside," on the property. The outline of the racetrack is shown in the Atlas of Baltimore County (Bromley, 1898) with Baker identified as the property owner. The scale of the track outline on the map is likely incorrect (as shown it would not be a mile around). The track must have extended to the south and east toward the intersection of Johnnycake Road and Ingleside Avenue. Baker's Ingleside mansion burned down in 1953. The present-day location of Central Course is in the Westview Park neighborhood of Catonsville, about six miles due west of downtown Baltimore, near the intersection of Interstate 695 and Route 40.

Even though Central Course opened to much anticipation and fanfare, in less than 10 years it closed after failing to deliver on its potential. As a result, the Central Course never hosted a major North vs. South match race, an event which might have elevated the track's status.

After the Civil War, the Maryland Jockey Club built a new flagship race course at Pimlico, and the era of running races in 4-mile heats came to an end. Few records remain of the original Central Course. What may have existed were likely lost either in the Great Baltimore Fire of 1904, or the fire that destroyed the historic Pimlico Clubhouse in 1966. ❧

SEND YOUR MARE TO MARYLAND
After she foals here, breed to one of our stallions and your 2025 foal is eligible to be a registered Maryland-bred*
Maryland-breds* run for 30% MORE
on earned purses in all overnight races in MD
(Currently split 15% Owner bonus, 15% Developer bonus, as determined by the Maryland Horsemen's Purse Account and administered by MTHA)
Currently earn 22.5% Breeder Bonuses
on earned purses for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in all overnight races in Maryland, plus bonuses on earned purses for 1st, 2nd, 3rd in Maryland stakes races (capped at $100,000) **
And beginning with 2 year olds of 2025
MARYLAND-SIRED Maryland-breds* earn
40% higher
BREEDER BONUSES
than out-of-state-sired–currently 31.5%–on all overnight races
*Horses must be registered with the Maryland Horse Breeders Association to be eligible to earn bonuses
**As of 2/2025; subject to subject to change as determined semi-annually by the Maryland Racing Commission
MARYLAND: A foundation of greatness, a bright future ahead
Maryland Stallions
BLOFELD (QUALITY ROAD)
BOURBON COURAGE (LION HEART)
CUPID (TAPIT)
DIVINING ROD (TAPIT)
ENDORSED (MEDAGLIA D'ORO)
ENGAGE (INTO MISCHIEF)
FIRST MONDAYS (CURLIN)
FRIESAN FIRE (A.P. INDY)
GALAWI (IRE) (DUBAWI-Ire)
GOLDEN LAD (MEDAGLIA D'ORO)
GREAT NOTION (ELUSIVE QUALITY)
KOBE'S BACK (FLATTER)
MOSLER (WAR FRONT)
NOT ABROAD (NOT FOR LOVE)
UNCLE LINO (UNCLE MO)
V. I. P. TICKET (WINDSOR CASTLE)
WARRANT (CONSTITUTION)
Maryland Horse.
MarylandThoroughbred.com

What's happening at the library?

The Maryland Horse Library and Education Center's third annual duplicate book sale takes place, along with an equine art mart, Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10 in Reisterstown.

In conjunction with the 150th Preakness celebration, the library will host a showing of the Eclipse Award-winning film *The Preakness: An American Classic,* which made its debut 25 years ago. Karin De Francis, executive producer of the film, will speak Friday evening, May 9, about what has been described as "a great retrospective – informative, interesting, wonderfully shot and edited and not just for race fans." All events are free.

Monday, April 28, 4 p.m. Author Talk with Eliza McGraw

Historian Eliza McGraw takes a different path in her new book, *Astride: Horses, Women, and a Partnership That Shaped America*. The author of *Here Comes Exterminator* weaves together stories of women who pioneered in the worlds of Thoroughbred breeding, the circus, horse rescue, cattle ranching, race riding and more, in a time when women were determined to prove they could hold their own. Illustrated with period photographs, *Astride* demonstrates that even small changes can advance the fight for progress.

Thursday, May 8 through Saturday, May 10 • 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – Third annual duplicate book sale and inaugural art mart

A large collection of classic books, many out-of-print, as well as newer offerings will be available for purchase at bargain prices. Any and all equine topics are covered. Equine art – from framed prints to a variety of posters, and more – will also be for sale.

Friday, May 9, 7 p.m. – Documentary film *The Preakness: An American Classic* and talk with Karin De Francis

In celebration of the 125th Preakness anniversary in 2000, Maryland Jockey Club executive and track co-owner Karin De Francis was a driving force in producing a documentary on Maryland's classic that included commentary from many local connections. The film made its debut during a special program at the Smithsonian Institution that May and was shown in July on WMAR-TV, for which it earned an Eclipse Award.

Prior to the film showing at the library May 9, longtime Preakness aficionado De Francis will discuss the making of the film and her connections to the race.

Visit marylandhorse.com for more information on these and other events. ❧

Maryland Horse LIBRARY AND EDUCATION CENTER

Maryland-bred Stakes Winners

Speedyness stays tough on lead in Campbell score

Jim McCue

Taking charge from the start in his typical "catch-me if you can" style, 4-year-old Speedyness earned his second stakes victory in the $100,000 John B. Campbell Stakes Feb. 15 at Laurel Park.

Trainer, breeder and co-owner Jamie Ness has seen the son of Great Notion go from a 4½-furlong maiden special weight winner in his 2-year-old debut in June 2023 to a consistent stakes performer at distances beyond a mile. However, the Campbell win was his first in two tries at 1⅛ miles. He was caught late in last spring's Federico Tesio and finished second.

Guided by two-time defending Maryland riding champion Jaime Rodriguez, Speedyness zipped away from the gate and set a soft pace of :24.74 and :49.60, with Offaly Cool the closest pursuer of six rivals. With ears flicking, Speedyness got 6 furlongs in 1:14.43 over the muddy sealed track.

Turning for home, the gelding cut the corner while Offaly Cool drifted a couple of paths wide. Offaly Cool tried to rally, but Speedyness had plenty left and won by a half-length in 1:53.63.

"When he doesn't feel a horse, he just pricks his ears forward like waiting for somebody. I was a little [worried] the last part because he pricked his ears and he

slowed down a little bit," Rodriguez said. "When the outside horse got next to me then he gave me another kick."

Rodriguez has been aboard Speedyness in every start since Maryland Million Day 2023, a string of 15 races.

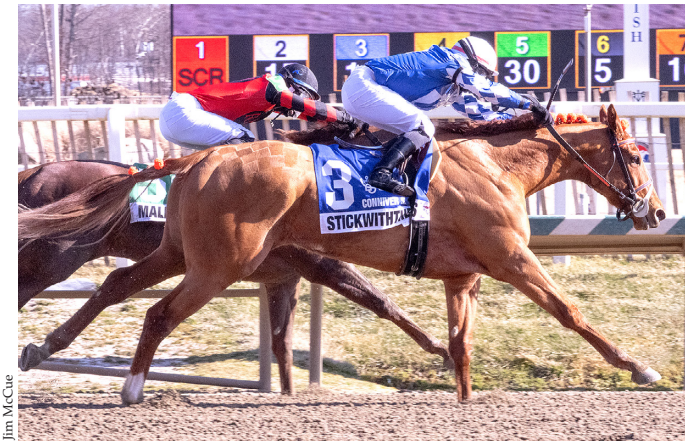
"Like Jamie says all the time, clean faces win races," Rodriguez said of the gate-to-wire tactics. "Every time the horses got close to him, he never gave up. When you put him in cruise control, he [does] everything by himself."

A three-time winner at 2, Speedyness finished third in the Maryland Juvenile. He captured Laurel's Miracle Wood in February 2024, a season in which he won or placed in seven of eight starts, with additional stakes placings in the Private Terms, City of Laurel and Robert T. Manfuso, the latter against older runners. He started 2025 with a fourth behind Quint's Brew in the Jennings in January.

Speedyness returned March 8 in the 6-furlong Not For Love. Hounded throughout, he gave way late to finish a half-length back in third. Through March 17, he was 18-7-2-4 with earnings of $397,840.

Bred in Maryland by Ness' Jagger Inc. and owned in partnership with Morris Kernan Jr., Speedyness is out of multiple stakes winner Hartigan (by Include), whose pedigree includes multiple generations developed by longtime leading Maryland breeder Robert Meyerhoff, starting with Dynamic Star, followed by her graded stakes-winning daughter and two-time Maryland-bred champion Star Minister. The family includes Maryland-bred champion Struth, Ohio Derby-G2 winner Stellar Brush and two-time stakes winner Concerned Minister. ❧

Maryland Fund Stakes Recaps



Jim McCue

Stickwiththecolors

Conniver Stakes

$75,000-guaranteed, 7 fur., registered Maryland-bred or sired fillies and mares, 4 & up. Laurel Park, March 8.

Ch.f., 2021, Divining Rod—Parade of Colors, by Leading the Parade. Bred and owned by John Williamson III; trained by John Salzman Jr. Foaled at Country Life Farm, Bel Air, Md.

		Lifetime		
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
10	5 (1)	2	1	$196,135

(through March 8)

2025: 1st $75,000 **Conniver S,** 7 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired fillies and mares, 4 & up, Laurel, March 8.

Making her stakes debut in her 10th start March 8 at Laurel, Stickwiththecolors seized the lead early under Jevian Toledo in the $75,000 Conniver Stakes, set fractions of :23.49 and :46.79, and maintained a more than 2-length advantage into the stretch. She fended off a late challenge from Malibu Moonshine to secure a neck victory in 1:25.16 for the 7 furlongs.

It was another gutsy effort for the John "Jay" Williamson homebred, a 4-year-old daughter of Divining Rod recording her third consecutive win in gate-to-wire fashion. Trainer John Salzman Jr. noted after the race: "I was so happy to see the slow pace down the backside, and she was doing it so easy. The last couple of races she's run, something has pressed her, then something picked her up, and then something got by her, and she dug back in."

Stickwiththecolors is the seventh winner from eight foals out of Parade of Colors, a Florida-bred daughter of the well-bred yet somewhat obscure stallion Leading the Parade (A.P. Indy—My Flag, by Easy Goer). Williamson followed Parade of Colors while she was racing at Laurel in 2012, and asked about giving her a home. Her connections were willing and gave the filly to Williamson following her last start in September 2012.

"She's one in a million," Williamson said of his mare, also the dam of $569,921 earner Ournationonparade, who won the Maryland Million Nursery and Classic and placed in eight stakes. "I've bred her to all local stallions," he added. "No blue-blooded stallions, no Kentucky stallions."

Stickwiththecolors has five wins at Laurel, four with Toledo in the saddle, plus two seconds and a third and career earnings of $196,135.

Parade of Colors' most recent foal is Stickwiththecolors' year-younger full-brother Johnjackjimjaye, unplaced in five starts. ❧

Circle P

Not For Love Stakes

$75,000-guaranteed, 6 fur., registered Maryland-bred or sired, 4 & up. Laurel Park, March 8.

B.g., 2021, Speightster—Quiet Inferno, by Quiet American. Bred by Marathon Farms; owned by DeSales 85; trained by Flint Stites. Foaled at Marathon Farm, Sparks, Md.

		Lifetime		
starts	*1st*	*2nd*	*3rd*	*earnings*
18	4 (2)	3 (1)	4 (2)	$245,285

(through March 8)

2024: 2nd **Howard and Sondra Bender Memorial S**; 3rd **Miracle Wood S**. **2025:** 1st $75,000 **Not For Love S,** 6 fur., registered Md.-bred or sired, 4 & up, Laurel, March 8; 3rd **Jennings S**.

Circle P returned to the winner's circle for the first time since last September in the $75,000 Not For Love Stakes for Maryland-breds March 8 at Laurel.

The bay gelding owned by DeSales 85 and trained by Flint Stites rated behind pacesetting favorite Speedyness in the 6-furlong contest. While Speedyness was pressed by S S Sinatra through fractions of :22.68 and :45.52, Circle P tracked in third in the seven-horse field.

With the top two still battling into the stretch, Circle P circled wide and took aim. Ricardo Chiappe urged Circle P through the stretch, and they got up to nose out S S Sinatra in 1:10.69, with Speedyness giving way late to finish a half-length back in third.

With the win, Circle P was finally able to get one over on Speedyness, who had finished ahead of him on five

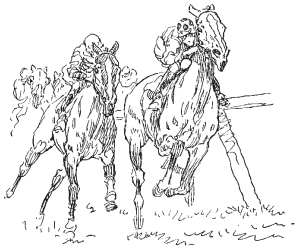
other occasions. The two had never met at 6 furlongs, which gave Stites confidence to enter the Not For Love.

Circle P recorded his fourth win in 18 starts, including the Maryland Juvenile. The Speightster gelding was multiple stakes-placed in an 11-start 3-year-old campaign in 2024 and in recent starts faced some of the toughest competition on the circuit – finishing second to Celtic Contender in the Howard and Sondra Bender Memorial Dec. 21, and third behind Quint's Brew in the restricted Jennings Jan. 18.

Bred by the late Peter Angelos' Marathon Farms, Circle P sold for $18,000 as a weanling at the Fasig-Tipton Midlantic December sale, then went for $47,000 as a yearling at Keeneland September. A half-brother to stakes-winning dirt router Sir Rick, Circle P is out of the winning Quiet American mare Quiet Inferno, who has produced four six-figure earners and five winners from as many starters.

With his fourth win, Circle P boosted his earnings to $245,285 in 18 starts. ❧

Jim McCue



Maryland Fund Report

Bonuses paid for races run
in December 2024 at Maryland tracks

Maryland Juvenile Championship Stakes

December 7. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-olds, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired. 7 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 25 nominations.) Winner: TONY ECLIPSE, by Not This Time. Breeder bonus: The Elkstone Group LLC ($13,500). Stallion bonus: None. Second: Virginia-bred by Mosler. Third: BARBADIAN RUNNER, by Barbados. Breeder bonus: Shamrock Farm ($2,250). Stallion bonus: Shamrock Farm ($750).

Maryland Juvenile Filly Championship Stakes

December 7. Purse $100,000-guaranteed. For 2-year-old fillies, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired. 7 fur. 6 competed. (Closed with 18 nominations.) Winner: Pennsylvania-bred by Golden Lad. Second: SAFE TRUST, by Mosler. Breeder bonus: Barak Farm ($4,500). Stallion bonus: Mosler Syndicate ($1,500). Third: ONYX TEN, by Street Magician. Breeder bonus: Frank T. Sample ($2,250). Stallion bonus: Estate of R. Larry Johnson ($750).

Howard and Sondra Bender Memorial Stakes

December 21. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired. 7 fur. 7 competed. (Closed with 20 nominations.) Winner: CELTIC CONTENDER, by Irish War Cry. Breeder bonus: Estate of Fred T. Lewis DVM ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Northview Stallion Station Inc. ($3,375). Second: CIRCLE P, by Speightster. Breeder bonus: Marathon Farm Inc. ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: Pennsylvania-bred by Great Notion.

Politely Stakes

December 21. Purse $75,000-guaranteed. For 3-year-olds and up, fillies and mares, registered Maryland-bred or Maryland-sired. 6 fur. 8 competed. (Closed with 16 nominations.) Winner: SPENCERIAN, by Irish War Cry. Breeder bonus: Franklin G. Smith Sr. ($10,125). Stallion bonus: Northview Stallion Station Inc. ($3,375). Second: BELLA BETTINA, by Midshipman. Breeder bonus: Daniel Marconi ($3,375). Stallion bonus: None. Third: BOURBON BON BAY, by Bourbon Courage. Breeder bonus: Erin Hlubik ($1,687.50). Stallion bonus: Bourbon Courage Syndicate ($562.50).

Breeder bonuses

Includes the additional 10 percent Maryland-sired bonus for winners of maiden races, initiated Jan. 1 during the 2022 Laurel winter meet. That bonus is reflected in the second figure earned for the race.

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc.—Sacred Thunder: Dec. 28, 8th race, $4,500. She'sarollingstone: Dec. 14, 5th race, $3,915. ($8,415)

Anchor and Hope Farm Inc. and Copper Penny Stables—Angel Art: Dec. 14, 7th race, $6,480. Mindful Angel: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $2,970/$990. ($10,440)

Sharon Banford—Red Hat Hanna: Dec. 29, 7th race, $1,102.50.

Barak Farm—Always Forward: Dec. 6, 9th race, $540. Kitty's Son: Dec. 1, 4th race, $922.50. Let's Go J J: Dec. 29, 3rd race, $1,845. Royal Whisper: Dec. 15, 4th race, $4,995. Safe Trust: Dec. 7, 7th race, $4,500. Vodkatini: Dec. 6, 9th race, $1,080; Dec. 22, 7th race, $1,080. ($14,962.50)

Barak Farm and Dinos Thoroughbreds LLC—Isabella's Glory: Dec. 8, 8th race, $1,665; Dec. 27, 5th race, $832.50. Skip Thru Da Fire: Dec. 28, 6th race, $540. ($3,037.50)

Barlar LLC—Align: Dec. 21, 1st race, $495.

BB Horses—Royal Seamstress: Dec. 13, 7th race, $3,240.

Patricia Beck and Richard C. Beck—Daily Planet: Dec. 22, 7th race, $540.

Bell Gable Stable—Can Do: Dec. 21, 9th race, $3,510/$1,170. Sir Chance a Lot: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $990. ($5,670)

Charles L. Biggs—Myluckeyvalentine: Dec. 13, 2nd race, $1,485.

Richard F. Blue Jr.—Chattolanee Spring: Dec. 29, 6th race, $742.50. Hot Boss: Dec. 8, 9th race, $742.50. ($1,485)

Bonita Farm—Hittheroadjak: Dec. 21, 8th race, $2,250.

Charles Bonuccelli—Roll On Jesse: Dec. 1, 4th race, $5,535; Dec. 28, 3rd race, $2,205. ($7,740)

Matthew Bright—Brighty: Dec. 14, 6th race, $1,170.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman and Dr. Brooke Bowman—Feelin So Lucky: Dec. 14, 7th race, $1,080. Not a Bother: Dec. 8, 3rd race, $1,845; Dec. 27, 3rd race, $6,345/$2,115. ($11,385)

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowman, Quin Bowman and Rebecca Davis—Clubman: Dec. 22, 4th race, $3,240.

Bowman and Higgins Stable—Don't Tell Deren: Dec. 29, 9th race, $2,295. Kerness K: Dec. 14, 2nd race, $5,535. ($7,830)

William Andrew Campbell—Bad Temper: Dec. 20, 5th race, $382.50.

Louis C. Carrico—Nancy Mary: Dec. 7, 3rd race, $4,455.

Wes Carter—El Divino Nino: Dec. 13, 3rd race, $990.

Chanceland Farm—Full Irish: Dec. 15, 7th race, $6,480.

Clover Hill Racing LLC—Enabler: Dec. 20, 7th race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)

Country Life Farm and Fleet and Fancy LLC—Next Girl: Dec. 7, 6th race, $6,615.

Country Life Farm and Grecian Maiden LLC—Schrader: Dec. 27, 1st race, $585.

Country Life Farm and Imagistic Broodmare II LLC—Sweet Talia: Dec. 8, 1st race, $382.50; Dec. 29, 9th race, $382.50. ($765)

Country Life Farm and Missy Rules LLC—Missy's Map: Dec. 13, 9th race, $495.

Country Life Farm and Moon Vision Broodmare LLC—Creed's Vision: Dec. 1, 6th race, $1,845.

Country Life Farm and Rock Sapphire LLC—I Wanna Rock: Dec. 22, 9th race, $495. Sapphire Beauty: Dec. 20, 5th race, $765. ($1,260)

Country Life Farm, Sue Ann Mancilla and Susan Scheffres—Divine Child: Dec. 14, 9th race, $742.50.

Dark Hollow Farm—Grey Biggsy: Dec. 1, 4th race, $1,845. Stormy Hollow: Dec. 27, 9th race, $495. Whiskeyinthejaro: Dec. 1, 8th race, $6,480. ($8,820)

John C. Davison—War Master: Dec. 21, 2nd race, $2,205.

Designated Hitters Racing—Daddy Yankee: Dec. 22, 2nd race, $5,535. Tik Tok Daddy: Dec. 13, 3rd race, $495. ($6,030)

Steve R. Ferguson—Lady Charlotte: Dec. 6, 2nd race, $990.

Finale Farm and Mr. and Mrs. David Moose—Nick's Notion: Dec. 1, 7th race, $922.50.

Paul L. Fowler Jr.—Intrepid's Legacy: Dec. 15, 7th race, $1,080.

Charles A. Frock—Tam Char: Dec. 28, 6th race, $1,080.

Glenangus Farm LLC—First Pearl: Dec. 20, 3rd race, $585.
Grandview Stable Inc. and Dominick J. Juno—Dolice Vita: Dec. 22, 5th race, $382.50.
Richard J. Hackerman—Lachicafortequila: Dec. 7, 5th race, $495; Dec. 20, 9th race, $990. ($1,485)
Nancy Haigley—Box of Rockets: Dec. 27, 9th race, $2,970/$990 ($3,960)
Maria M. Haire—Neolithica: Dec. 29, 1st race, $495.
James Hibbert—Cactus: Dec. 22, 5th race, $2,295.
Hickory Ridge Farm—All the Hardways: Dec. 20, 8th race, $5,535.
Erin Hlubik—Bourbon Bon Bay: Dec. 21, 5th race, $1,687.50.
Timothy N. Hopkins—Blo By'em: Dec. 22, 6th race, $585.
Horseshoe Valley Equine Center LLC—Luminous Secret: Dec. 29, 6th race, $4,455.
Ann B. Jackson—Brewmaster: Dec. 20, 7th race, $990. Brzina: Dec. 6, 1st race, $3,915; Dec. 15, 4th race, $1,665. ($6,570)
Catherine R. Jager—Boys Go to Jupiter: Dec. 7, 3rd race, $1,485.
Jagger Inc.—Little Lance: Dec. 22, 8th race, $832.50. Speedyness: Dec. 21, 8th race, $4,500. ($5,332.50)
Jagger Inc. and Super C Racing Inc.—Derbyness: Dec. 1, 8th race, $2,160.
Estate of R. Larry Johnson—Mr Jefferson: Dec. 1, 1st race, $2,970; Dec. 22, 4th race, $1,080. ($4,050)
Hope Haskell Jones—Moon Cache: Dec. 27, 4th race, $1,102.50.
Karmac Stables LLC—Golden Girl Lena: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $495.
Owen Kiernan—Ade: Dec. 20, 3rd race, $1,170.
Lady Olivia at North Cliff LLC—Buckin' Dreamer: Dec. 13, 1st race, $1,485.
Carl Lanier—He's Orientate: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $652.50; Dec. 29, 2nd race, $540. ($1,192.50)
Estate of Fred T. Lewis Sr. DVM—Celtic Contender: Dec. 21, 4th race, $10,125.
Kenneth F. Lowe Jr.—Ifeelbadforyouson: Dec. 22, 9th race, $990.
LRM Stable LLC—Gold Digging Broad: Dec. 21, 6th race, $1,192.50.
Robert T. Manfuso, Katharine M. Voss and Casey J. Randall—Twice Gold: Dec. 20, 4th race, $585.
Marathon Farm Inc.—Circle P: Dec. 21, 4th race, $3,375.
Daniel E. Marconi—Bella Bettina: Dec. 21, 5th race, $3,375. Jasiel: Dec. 14, 3rd race, $2,115; Dec. 29, 3rd race, $5,535/$1,845. ($12,870)
Mezza Luna Farm LLC—In the Dance: Dec. 1, 8th race, $1,080; Dec. 13, 8th race, $1,080. ($2,160)
Mike Dalton LLC—Quincannon: Dec. 8, 6th race, $382.50; Dec. 27, 6th race, $2,295. ($2,677.50)
Mikelle Farm—True Sunshine: Dec. 6, 2nd race, $2,970; Dec. 28, 9th race, $990. ($3,960)
Kevin P. Morgan—Fancy Princess: Dec. 7, 2nd race, $450.
Murmur Farm—Bold Diversion: Dec. 14, 1st race, $742.50. Bondiva: Dec. 14, 7th race, $2,160. Meg: Dec. 7, 9th race, $1,485. Mister Agent: Dec. 6, 6th race, $585; Dec. 20, 6th race, $495; Dec. 28, 1st race, $1,170. ($6,637.50)
Nancy Lee Farms—Margaret P: Dec. 27, 3rd race, $1,057.50.
No Guts No Glory Farm—Bigdaddysboy: Dec. 29, 2nd race, $1,080. Itsamonstamash: Dec. 8, 9th race, $4,455/$1,485. ($7,020)
Clarke Ohrstrom—Balance of Power: Dec. 21, 1st race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)
Charles V. Parker—Mose Perfect: Dec. 22, 8th race, $1,665.
Beatrice J. Patterson—Gottahoppertunity: Dec. 21, 9th race, $585.
D. Scott Peck—Set for Life: Dec. 1, 9th race, $3,510; Dec. 20, 8th race, $922.50. ($4,432.50)
A. Leonard Pineau—Crossland: Dec. 13, 8th race, $2,160. Sullivan Street: Dec. 6, 1st race, $1,305. ($3,465)
Dr. and Mrs. A. Leonard Pineau—Rapidity: Dec. 8, 3rd race, $5,535.
Joel Politi—Nola Boss: Dec. 1, 6th race, $5,535/$1,845. ($7,380)
Valter J. Ramos—Bernie the Star: Dec. 1, 6th race, $922.50; Dec. 21, 3rd race, $922.50. Ready for Magic: Dec. 13, 4th race, $1,845; Dec. 28, 4th race, $2,115. ($5,805)
Eric A. Rizer and Nancy M. Rizer—Chickin Lickin: Dec. 8, 7th race, $2,115; Dec. 28, 4th race, $6,345/$2,115. Slam Notion: Dec. 21, 3rd race, $5,535/$1,845. ($17,955)
Rolling Meadows Farm—Bond's Belle: Dec. 7, 5th race, $2,970/$990. ($3,960)
Frank T. Sample—Onyx Ten: Dec. 7, 7th race, $2,250; Dec. 27, 4th race, $2,205. Secret Zipper: Dec. 13, 8th race, $6,480. ($10,935)
Edward A. Seltzer and Justin J. Nixon—Lil Sebastian: Dec. 20, 8th race, $1,845.
Shamrock Farm—Barbadian Runner: Dec. 7, 8th race, $2,250; Dec. 28, 8th race, $2,250. ($4,500)
Janice Sinatra—S S Sinatra: Dec. 15, 7th race, $2,160.
Hamilton A. Smith—Flatbed Ford: Dec. 21, 1st race, $990.
Franklin G. Smith Sr.—Looking for Water: Dec. 29, 9th race, $765. Spencerian: Dec. 21, 5th race, $10,125. ($10,890)
James B. Steele Jr.—Divining Smile: Dec. 7, 3rd race, $742.50.
Strongline Thoroughbreds LLC—English Daddy: Dec. 22, 6th race, $3,510/$1,170. ($4,680)
Super C Racing Inc.—Eccentric: Dec. 1, 7th race, $5,535.
Sycamore Hall Thoroughbreds LLC—Bjorn: Dec. 28, 3rd race, $1,102.50. Feeling Woozy: Dec. 27, 8th race, $7,560. First to Arrive: Dec. 22, 1st race, $2,970. Lovely Charm: Dec. 7, 6th race, $2,205; Dec. 29, 7th race, $2,205. Sweet Honey Bee: Dec. 28, 2nd race, $2,970/$990. ($20,002.50)
James F. Thames—Irish Warlock: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $3,915.
The Elkstone Group LLC—Cap Com: Dec. 21, 2nd race, $1,102.50. Oncourtcommentator: Dec. 21, 6th race, $7,155. Order Ofthe Kettle: Dec. 13, 1st race, $742.50. Tony Eclipse: Dec. 7, 8th race, $13,500. ($22,500)
Thornmar Farm LLC/Mr and Mrs Charles McGinnes—Admit Nothing: Dec. 1, 1st race, $990. At First Sight: Dec. 28, 9th race, $495. Forgotten Gift: Dec. 13, 7th race, $540. General Maximus: Dec. 1, 9th race, $1,170; Dec. 22, 6th race, $1,170. Just the Thing: Dec. 20, 2nd race, $495. Little Bit Risky: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $585. Up in Flames: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $2,970/$990; Dec. 27, 1st race, $1,170. ($10,575)
2500 Determined Holdings—Daring Venture: Dec. 21, 3rd race, $1,845.
Katharine Merryman Voss—Joyful Kitten: Dec. 20, 2nd race, $990. Viennese Waltz: Dec. 29, 1st race, $2,970. ($3,960)
Maureen Wade—Buoyant: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $1,170.
Estate of Linda M. Walls—Concrete Faze: Dec. 29, 5th race, $1,845.
Susan Wantz—A Lotta Moxie: Dec. 20, 9th race, $2,970.
Wasabi Ventures Stables LLC and Greenspring Mares LLC—Pull No Punches: Dec. 22, 1st race, $495.
John E. Williamson III—Stickwiththecolors: Dec. 13, 5th race, $5,535.
Winding Creek Farm—Whiskey and You: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $1,305.
WWCD LLC—Mattitude: Dec. 15, 4th race, $832.50; Dec. 28, 5th race, $2,385. ($3,217.50)

Maryland-bred top earners in 2025

(through March 18)

1.	Quint's Brew	$165,000	
2.	Mindframe	120,280	
3.	Barbadian Runner	120,000	
	Onyx Ten	120,000	
5.	Passion Rules	114,600	
6.	Green Eyed Monster	97,720	
7.	Wise Miss.	78,813	
8.	Stickwiththecolors	78,810	
9.	Speedyness	72,000	
10.	Secret Zipper	70,380	
11.	Summerinthecountry	$67,060	
12.	Divine Works	61,655	
13.	Sheilahs Warcloud	60,000	
14.	Deem	57,600	
15.	Absolutely Hot	56,000	
16.	Malibu Hooch.	54,740	
17.	Circle P.	54,500	
18.	Bandonarun	54,430	
19.	Safe Trust	53,810	
20.	Jaxon Traveler	52,750	

Stallion bonuses

ALLIANCE (Align: Dec. 21, 1st race, $165): Lawrence Karp.
BANDBOX (Box of Rockets: Dec. 27, 9th race, $990. Forgotten Gift: Dec. 13, 7th race, $180): Northview Stallion Station—$1,170.
BARBADOS (Barbadian Runner: Dec. 7, 8th race, $750; Dec. 28, 8th race, $750): Shamrock Farm—$1,500.
BLOFELD (Blo By'em: Dec. 22, 6th race, $195. Bold Diversion: Dec. 14, 1st race, $247.50. Bond's Belle: Dec. 7, 5th race, $990. Bondiva: Dec. 14, 7th race, $720. Meg: Dec. 7, 9th race, $495. Mister Agent: Dec. 6, 6th race, $195; Dec. 20, 6th race, $165; Dec. 28, 1st race, $390): Blofeld Syndicate—$3,397.50.
BOURBON COURAGE (Bourbon Bon Bay: Dec. 21, 5th race, $562.50. She'sarollingstone: Dec. 14, 5th race, $1,305): Bourbon Courage Syndicate—$1,867.50.
BUFFUM (Fancy Princess: Dec. 7, 2nd race, $150. Quincannon: Dec. 8, 6th race, $127.50; Dec. 27, 6th race, $765): Northview for Buffum Syndicate—$1,042.50.
DIVINING ROD (Divine Child: Dec. 14, 9th race, $247.50. Divining Smile: Dec. 7, 3rd race, $247.50. Enabler: Dec. 20, 7th race, $990. Looking for Water: Dec. 29, 9th race, $255. Next Girl: Dec. 7, 6th race, $2,205. Stickwiththecolors: Dec. 13, 5th race, $1,845. Sweet Talia: Dec. 8, 1st race, $127.50; Dec. 29, 9th race, $127.50. Vodkatini: Dec. 6, 9th race, $360; Dec. 22, 7th race, $360): Divining Rod Syndicate—$6,735.
DORTMUND (Dolice Vita: Dec. 22, 5th race, $127.50): Kaleem S. Shah.
ECLIPTICALSPRALINE (Boys Go to Jupiter: Dec. 7, 3rd race, $495): Maria M. Haire.
EDITORIAL (Daily Planet: Dec. 22, 7th race, $180): Climax Stallions LLC.
FIRST MONDAYS (English Daddy: Dec. 22, 6th race, $1,170. First Pearl: Dec. 20, 3rd race, $195): First Mondays Partnership—$1,365.
FRIESAN FIRE (Skip Thru Da Fire: Dec. 28, 6th race, $180. Up in Flames: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $990; Dec. 27, 1st race, $390. Whiskey and You: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $435): Friesan Fire Syndicate—$1,995.
GOLDEN LAD (Chickin Lickin: Dec. 8, 7th race, $705; Dec. 28, 4th race, $2,115. Golden Girl Lena: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $165. Itsamonstamash: Dec. 8, 9th race, $1,485. Jasiel: Dec. 14, 3rd race, $705; Dec. 29, 3rd race, $1,845. Just the Thing: Dec. 20, 2nd race, $165. Sweet Honey Bee: Dec. 28, 2nd race, $990. Twice Gold: Dec. 20, 4th race, $195): Golden Lad Syndicate—$8,370.
GREAT NOTION (At First Sight: Dec. 28, 9th race, $165. Brzina: Dec. 6, 1st race, $1,305; Dec. 15, 4th race, $555. Kerness K: Dec. 14, 2nd race, $1,845. Lady Charlotte: Dec. 6, 2nd race, $330. Little Bit Risky: Dec. 1, 3rd race, $195. Mattitude: Dec. 15, 4th race, $277.50; Dec. 28, 5th race, $795. Nick's Notion: Dec. 1, 7th race, $307.50. Not a Bother: Dec. 8, 3rd race, $615; Dec. 27, 3rd race, $2,115. Slam Notion: Dec. 21, 3rd race, $1,845. Speedyness: Dec. 21, 8th race, $1,500. Stormy Hollow: Dec. 27, 9th race, $165. Tam Char: Dec. 28, 6th race, $360): Great Notion Syndicate—$12,375.
HOLY BOSS (Balance of Power: Dec. 21, 1st race, $990. Brewmaster: Dec. 20, 7th race, $330. Crossland: Dec. 13, 8th race, $720. Hot Boss: Dec. 8, 9th race, $247.50. Nola Boss: Dec. 1, 6th race, $1,845. Sacred Thunder: Dec. 28, 8th race, $1,500): Holy Boss Syndicate—$5,632.50.
HOPPERTUNITY (Ade: Dec. 20, 3rd race, $390. Eccentric: Dec. 1, 7th race, $1,845. Gottahoppertunity: Dec. 21, 9th race, $195): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$2,430.
IMAGINING (Angel Art: Dec. 14, 7th race, $2,160. Bigdaddysboy: Dec. 29, 2nd race, $360. Buckin' Dreamer: Dec. 13, 1st race, $495. El Divino Nino: Dec. 13, 3rd race, $330. In the Dance: Dec. 1, 8th race, $360; Dec. 13, 8th race, $360. Intrepid's Legacy: Dec. 15, 7th race, $360. Little Lance: Dec. 22, 8th race, $277.50. Mindful Angel: Dec. 15, 2nd race, $990): Imagining Syndicate—$5,692.50.
IRISH WAR CRY (Celtic Contender: Dec. 21, 4th race, $3,375. Feeling Woozy: Dec. 27, 8th race, $2,520. Full Irish: Dec. 15, 7th race, $2,160. Irish Warlock: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $1,305. Lovely Charm: Dec. 7, 6th race, $735; Dec. 29, 7th race, $735. Margaret P: Dec. 27, 3rd race, $352.50. Royal Seamstress: Dec. 13, 7th race, $1,080. Spencerian: Dec. 21, 5th race, $3,375. Whiskeyinthejaro: Dec. 1, 8th race, $2,160): Northview Stallion Station Inc.—$17,797.50.
KOBE'S BACK (Hittheroadjak: Dec. 21, 8th race, $750): Bonita Farm.
LONG RIVER (Chattolanee Spring: Dec. 29, 6th race, $247.50): Long River Syndicate.
MADEFROMLUCKY (Feelin So Lucky: Dec. 14, 7th race, $360. Joyful Kitten: Dec. 20, 2nd race, $330. Myluckeyvalentine: Dec. 13, 2nd race, $495): Madefromlucky Syndicate—$1,185.
MOSLER (Can Do: Dec. 21, 9th race, $1,170. I Wanna Rock: Dec. 22, 9th race, $165. Moon Cache: Dec. 27, 4th race, $367.50. Mose Perfect: Dec. 22, 8th race, $555. Safe Trust: Dec. 7, 7th race, $1,500. Sapphire Beauty: Dec. 20, 5th race, $255. Sir Chance a Lot: Dec. 1, 2nd race, $330): Mosler Syndicate—$4,342.50.
NOT FOR LOVE (Clubman: Dec. 22, 4th race, $1,080): Not For Love Syndicate.
ORIENTATE (He's Orientate: Dec. 15, 3rd race, $217.50; Dec. 29, 2nd race, $180): Orientate Syndicate—$397.50.
STREET MAGICIAN (Onyx Ten: Dec. 7, 7th race, $750; Dec. 27, 4th race, $735): Estate of R. Larry Johnson—$1,485.
SUPER NINETY NINE (Bad Temper: Dec. 20, 5th race, $127.50. Concrete Faze: Dec. 29, 5th race, $615. Ifeelbadforyouson: Dec. 22, 9th race, $330): Country Life Farm—$1072.50.
UNCLE LINO (Bernie the Star: Dec. 1, 6th race, $307.50; Dec. 21, 3rd race, $307.50): Northview Stallion Station—$615.

THE THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION OF NEW JERSEY NEWSLETTER

Post Time

- News, views and insights that matter to breeders, owners and racing industry professionals - **April 2025** -

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NYRA/COGLIANESE PHOTO

Book'em Danno repeats as New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year

Book'em Danno has been named the New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year for the second consecutive year. Additionally, he has received the titles of Champion Three-Year-Old and Champion Sprinter from the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association of New Jersey. Owned by Atlantic Six Racing LLC and trained by Derek Ryan, this gelding had an impressive season, achieving three wins and two second-place finishes in seven starts, accumulating total earnings of $807,500.

Book'em Danno began his 3-year-old campaign with a commanding 12½-length victory in the $100,000 Pasco Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs, setting the stage for a strong season. His next challenge was the $1 million Saudi Derby-G3, where he narrowly lost a photo finish to Japan's Forever Young. Following that, he raced at Saratoga and made history as the first New Jersey-bred to win a Grade 1 race since 2017, claiming victory in the $500,000 Woody Stephens on the Belmont Stakes undercard. He continued his success with a win in the $100,000 Jersey Shore Stakes at Monmouth Park before finishing in the money at both the Grade 1 Allen Jerkens and the Grade 3 Perryville Stakes.

Bred in New Jersey by Gregory Kilka and Bright View Farm, Book'em Danno is a son of Bucchero out of the Ghostzapper mare Adorabella, also the dam of multiple stakes winner Girl Trouble.

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Champion Two-Year-Old

J Zo Zo was named Champion Two-Year-Old after winning the $100,000 Smoke Glacken Stakes against open company at Monmouth Park by 8½ lengths. The son of leading New Jersey sire Sea Wizard out of Lost Princess, by Stephen Got Even, is a Jose Garcia homebred trained by Jose Sanchez. He earned $125,343 during his championship campaign.

Champion Older Female

Holly Crest Farm's homebred Riding Pretty earned the title of Champion Older Female due to her two stakes wins. The daughter of Jack Milton out of the Girolamo mare High Renaissance, won the $85,000 Smart N Classy Handicap at one mile on dirt by 7½ lengths and the $100,000 Eleven North Handicap going six furlongs on dirt. Trained by Eddie Owens, Jr., Riding Pretty also finished second in the Jersey Girl Handicap at Monmouth Park, which was contested at one mile on turf. She has career earnings of $378,070.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (3)

Champion Older Male & Turf Runner

New Spice Stable's homebred Smithwick's Spice was named Champion Older Male and Champion Turf Runner after winning five races in 2024. He captured his first stakes victory in the $100,000 Leinster Turf Dash Stakes at Tampa Bay Downs. His next two stakes wins were the $100,000 Select Stakes and the $85,000 Joey P. Handicap, both run over the Monmouth Park turf course. The now 9-year-old son of Frost Giant out of Spice McHaggis, by Good and Tough, secured his fifth win in the $100,000 Extravagant Kid Handicap at Gulfstream Park. Trained by Douglas Nunn, Smithwick's Spice has won 14 races for total earnings of $730,542.

Broodmare of the Year

Adorabella received the title of Broodmare of the Year for the third consecutive year. Bred by Tracy Farmer, this 9-year-old mare is by Ghostzapper out of Alydorable, by Arch. Gregory Kilka purchased her out of the Keeneland January 2020 Horse of All Ages Sale while she was carrying her first foal to the cover of Fast Anna. That was 2022 New Jersey-bred Champion Two-Year-Old Filly Girl Trouble ($288,540). Adorabella's second foal is 2023 and 2024 New Jersey-bred Horse of the Year and Grade 1-winning millionaire Book'em Danno.

Book'em Danno, the second stakes winner from as many foals to race for three-time Broodmare of the Year Adorabella, became a Grade 1 winner and millionaire in 2024.

Stallion of the Year

Sea Wizard has been named New Jersey Stallion of the Year for the second consecutive year after his progeny earned $1,099,568, for average earnings per runner of $47,807, in 2024. From three crops to race, Sea Wizard's runners include the New Jersey-bred Champion Two-Year-Old J J Zo Zo, and additional 2024 stakes winners Sea Streak and Ship to Shore. Sea Wizard is standing the 2025 breeding season at Pegasus Farm in Colts Neck.

EQUI-PHOTO, INC. (2)

Sea Streak, shown winning the Long Branch Stakes last May, was one of three stakes winners in 2024 for Stallion of the Year Sea Wizard.

Sea Wizard has a big week at Gulfstream Park

by Bill Finley

At a racetrack and during a race meet where the entries are loaded with horses by all of the top sires in the sport, you would think that New Jersey-based stallion Sea Wizard would be in over his head. That wasn't the case the week ending Feb. 9, as Sea Wizard's progeny won two races at Gulfstream, a $75,000 optional claimer with Dumb Money and an allowance with Great Navigator.

For those who have been following Sea Wizard, that probably wasn't much of a surprise. From the time he entered stud in 2019, he has, with limited opportunities, produced a slew of horses who are fast, consistent, and have piled up sizeable earnings. But outside of New Jersey he's gone largely unnoticed, one of the sport's most underrated sires. If he has too many more weeks like he had in Februray, that may finally start to change.

"Mares should be flocking to this horse," said Doug Nunn, who trains Dumb Money. "He's not just a Jersey stallion, in my opinion."

Sea Wizard stands at Pegasus Stud in Colts Neck, and his stud fee is $5,000. He was trained by the late John Mazza, who convinced Sam Fieramosca that he had to stand Sea Wizard at stud. A son of the late Uncle Mo, Sea Wizard ran just twice, breaking his maiden at Belmont in his second career start. At the time, Fieramosca owned and operated Colonial Farm, which was subsequently turned over to Carmine Spinella and renamed Pegasus Stud.

Trained by Eddie Owens Jr., Great Navigator is from the first crop of Sea Wizard, and the Holly Crest Farm homebred wasted little time showing he had quality. He broke his maiden at first asking at Monmouth, then rans second in the Grade 3 Sanford Stakes at Saratoga in his second start. When he won at Gulfstream in February, he pushed his earnings to $400,417.

"He's a very underrated sire," said Owens, who is the private trainer for Holly Crest Farm. "He had two winners in the same week at Gulfstream and they were in tough races. When we first started breeding to him I never thought he would be this good. He's been a surprise to me. Most of them have been running pretty good. Among mine, I have some that are not as talented as others. But you'll never be in a situation where they are all good."

Dumb Money, stakes-placed at the Belmont At The Big A meet last November, was making his first start for Nunn after running for Greg Sacco. Running in a 5-furlong race over the Tapeta surface, he won by 1½ lengths.

"I have been watching Sea Wizard for the last couple of years, and what he has done has been remarkable," Nunn said. "We haven't had a top stallion like him here in New Jersey for years. The way he has taken off is pretty unbelievable. This is the only horse I've ever had by Sea Wizard, and I've trained for a lot of Jersey breeders over the years. This owner changed trainers, and once he came to me, he trained like a good horse. He's nothing to look at. He gives you no reason to think he's a race horse. It's mind boggling. But when you train him, it's a totally different story."

Nunn said he hopes to add more Sea Wizards to his barn.

"We are looking for Sea Wizards," he said. "People have tried to sell us horses by the regular Jersey stallions and we're trying to find Sea Wizards. I have owners who are breeders and yes, absolutely, they're booking some of their mares to Sea Wizard. We definitely want to get a little better quality of mare to breed to him. What he's done so far is to produce these horses out of the normal Jersey-bred mares that you see."

But until now, people haven't really caught on.

Sea Wizard has had 17 winners from just 25 starters, a remarkable percentage for any stallion. He's had four black-type winners and one black-type-placed horse – five black-type horses in total from those 25 starters. That's 20 percent black-type horses to starters. And 11 of his winners won at 2.

After Great Navigator, his best horses have been Sea Streak, a two-time stakes winner who beat open company in the Long Branch Stakes, ran fifth in the Haskell-G1, and won or placed in seven of 10 starts while earning $309,110 to date; and Ship to Shore, who beat open company in the 2024 Limehouse Stakes at Gulfstream.

J J Zo Zo is still another Sea Wizard who has won an open company stakes race, winning the 2024 Smoke Glacken Stakes last year at 2.

"I remember when Sam Fieramosca at Colonial Farms first got him, and I kind of laughed at it," Nunn said. "I was wondering what they were doing with a stallion that had only run twice and only broken his maiden. But that he's by Uncle Mo definitely helps.

"Sea Wizard's horses can run on the dirt, the turf, the Tapeta. They can run long or short. Some of these stallions are pretty one-dimensional when it comes to their runners. Not this one. He has a lot of quality to him."

North Carolina

THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

April 2025

President's message

Happy warm weather days to all. Spring is now here!

Notice to Members

There will be no Awards Banquet this year due to sickness but the awards will all be sent out to each individual as soon as possible. There will be a dinner later in the year for a meet and greet for all members.

Reminder

Please remember to submit your membership applications to continue to receive *Mid-Atlantic Thoroughbred*.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me at 336-622-3089 or email bherring@rtelco.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Bonnie Herring, President NCTA
336-622-3089; bherring@rtelco.net

NCTA MISSION STATEMENT

- Promote the Thoroughbred industry in North Carolina
- Provide educational opportunities to our members in all aspects of the Thoroughbred industry
- Provide our members with opportunities to develop working relationships and meet as friends and colleagues, thereby encouraging excellence and outstanding achievements.

2024 Annual Awards

My Shea D Lady	Champion Stakes Horse	Daniel Shea
Termsofengagement	Champion Allowance Male	Nancy Shuford
Tinki Abarrio	Champion Allowance Female	Nancy Shuford
Raise a Ruckus	Champion Claiming Male	Clinton Lowry
Mo Tough	Champion Claiming Female	Elizabeth Muirhead
Hot Creek Risin	Champion Broodmare	Clinton Lowry
Colonel Cooper	2-Year-Old	Caroline Cooper
	Breeder of the Year	Nancy Shuford

Race Results

CHAMPAGNE CAMIE – WINNER at Santa Anita, Feb. 14; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Final time 1:12.16. Mare, 2019, Speightster— Ice for the Lady, by Flatter. Bred by Beth Muirhead. Champagne Camie dueled from the inside, cleared the other horse, inched along the fence, rode light handed in upper stretch, geared down in final sixteenth.

KENNY HAD A NOTION - WINNER at Charles Town, Feb. 27; 7 furlongs on the dirt. Final time 1:28.81. Gelding, 2018, Great Notion—Darting, by During. Owned by Arlee Arkofa. Inside to far turn, four-wide, all out to win.

MANAGING MISCHIEF - WINNER at Will Rogers, March 3; 6 furlongs on the dirt. Final time 1:10.02. Filly, 2021, Maximus Mischief—Enchanting Essence, by Midshipman. Owned by Carolina Cooper in partnership. Managing Mischief set the pace, lost the lead, but dug in down the stretch, got back in front in the final stage to win.

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North Carolina Thoroughbred Association

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Involvement in the Thoroughbred Industry
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PENNSYLVANIA HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

PA Thoroughbred NEWSLETTER

April 2025
pabred.com

PA-BRED REMINDERS

- **Early registration:** Within 365 days of foaling
- **Yearling registration:** Dec. 31 of yearling year
- **Stallion registration:** Feb. 15 of year breeding
- **Broodmare domicile:** Dec. 1 or 14 days after a public sale or entering state if being bred back to PA-sire

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Simply Joking, Simply Spectacular

By Nikki Sherman

You can't do better than perfect, and Simply Joking has been just that during her young career. With two starts and two stakes scores, the Pennsylvania-Bred sophomore filly is squarely on the 2025 Kentucky Oaks trail.

Trainer Whit Beckman was so impressed with Simply Joking that he dared enter her in the 6-furlong, $100,000 Letellier Memorial Stakes at Fair Grounds first time out last Dec. 21.

"We knew pretty much right away that she was a nice horse," Beckman remembered. "We knew right from her first work. She is a big, powerful filly with exceptional talent."

Despite her lack of experience, she went off as the 5-2 third choice. The favorite was Whata Moon, a 9½-length winner of a maiden special weight at Delta Downs. The $225,000 Keeneland September Yearling purchase Sycamore Shoals was the second choice.

Simply Joking did not have an easy race, but it was a huge learning experience that had the added bonus of a win. She broke awkwardly at the start, banging into the gate on her way out and jostling jockey Jaime Torres. She recovered quickly but ended up stuck behind horses, then was shuffled further back as they raced down the backstretch. With nowhere to go but feeling a ton of horse, Torres redirected their trajectory five-wide around the turn and Simply Joking responded with fervor.

The duo chased down Whata Moon with a furlong to go and a stretch duel was on. Nearing the wire, she drifted out when Torres hit her left-

Simply Joking continued from page 1

handed, so he switched sides which caused her to greenly "flop" onto her left lead. However, she straightened out and battled to the wire with Whata Moon and, with pure heart, won by a neck.

Beckman took note of the incredible trip, saying afterwards, "Everything that usually gets a first-time starter beat happened. She's a beast, an absolute specimen. You look at the pedigree and a mile and an eighth looks perfect. The good ones, they can win going 6 furlongs anyway."

With the victory, Simply Joking became the 42nd stakes winner for popular young sire Practical Joke. The son of Into Mischief is also the sire of millionaire Skelly and was ranked ninth on the nation's leading sires list for both 2023 and 2024.

Simply Joking was bred in Pennsylvania by Larry and Barbara Karp's Barlar LLC and represents two generations of their breeding program. They purchased the stakes-placed Orientate mare Allude in 2011 and over their three years of ownership, she produced three six-figure winners, including stakes winners Advert and the brilliant Imply. The latter, a daughter of E Dubai, would go on to capture 12 of 30 career starts, including seven stakes, and score earnings of $772,728. Imply was crowned Pennsylvania's Leading Breeding Fund recipient in 2019 and altogether garnered an additional $307,170 in breeders' awards, essentially becoming a millionaire.

Upon retirement, Imply joined the small Barlar broodmare band at Sylmar Farm in Christiana. She has been nothing short of spectacular. Her first foal was Drum Roll Please (Hard Spun), who was briefly on the Kentucky Derby trail last year after capturing the $150,000 Jerome Stakes and finishing third in the $250,000 Remsen Stakes-G2 for trainer Brad Cox. The two horses ahead of him in the Remsen were future Breeders' Cup Classic-G1 hero Sierra Leone and Belmont Stakes/Haskell Stakes winner Dornoch. Gold Square LLC originally purchased Drum Roll Please as a yearling for $250,000. The colt has been gearing up for his 4-year-old season at Palm Meadows Training Center in Florida.

Imply's second foal is Simply Joking. She has a yearling filly by Uncle Mo and is expecting a Good Magic foal this spring.

Simply Joking sold as a yearling for $65,000 through Carl McEntee's Ballysax Bloodstock at Keeneland. Trainer Beckman credits McEntee for guiding his clients to the Imply filly, who is now owned by Grantley Acres, Ryan Conner and Berkels0813.

Simply Joking made her sophomore debut Jan. 18 in the $150,000 Silverbulletday Stakes, again at Fair Grounds in New Orleans. As Beckman predicted, distance would not be a problem at all. This time she was ready to roll right out of the gate and wired the field by an emphatic 2½ lengths while stretching out to a mile and 70 yards. She was still a bit green, swapping leads again approaching the wire, but that doesn't worry rider Jaime Torres.

"I was very comfortable on her, the way she was traveling the track," he said. "She did everything herself. She was a little bit green at the end, waiting on company, but she was much the best. We thought she'd get better going two turns."

Who she beat that day was even more exciting. Finishing in fourth was the royally-bred Into Mischief filly Chasten, a half-sister to two-time Eclipse Champion Older Mare Idiomatic.

Beckman said that Simply Joking has all of the qualities that make a great racehorse, including a smart mind. "She's really easygoing and attentive. She processes everything really well; when some horses might spook, she takes it all in to process it. She's as sweet as they come and is great to handle in her stall."

Though, he did note one small thing that she'll have to get used to. "She was a little nervous around the cameras, how they were on her after racing at Fair Grounds."

Hopefully Simply Joking will have plenty of opportunities to process those cameras as she continues on her quest for the Kentucky Oaks, representing Pennsylvania on the first Friday in May.

A few words from the Executive Secretary

Fantastic news for the Chapman Family and Pennsylvania as Smarty Jones was recently nominated to the Hall of Fame! It's been 21 years since America's Horse triumphed in the Derby and Preakness. This nomination is long overdue and you'll be able to take a trip to the past to relive the excitement by going to pabred.com under the featured section to view.

It's breeding season again and you can find registered PA stallions sired by Tapit, Curlin, Munnings, Street Sense, Speightstown, Medaglia d' Oro, Gun Runner, Good Magic and many more which includes nine new sires for 2025.

Go to pabred.com and check out the PA Stallion & Boarding Farm Directory on the home page and book your next, or first, PA-Bred. Need a place to board and foal your mare? Please give us a call at 610-444-1050 as space is available.

The third and final leg of the 2024 Stallion Series will be run on Sept. 19 on PA Day at the Races, with stakes purses of $100,000 for 3yos & 3yo fillies. A $50,000 breeder bonus for horses that finish first, second and third in total points for the series will be paid at that time – $25,000 for first, $15,000 for second and $10,000 for third.

We'll be having our first PA Yearling Show June 21 at Brandywine Polo Club in Chester County. Four categories plus one for champion will be offered with lots of prizes. You should have received show information and a registration form in the mail and online. Only $50 to enter, with additional earning incentives paid at the end of their 2 and 3yo years.

Domicile forms are mandatory and should have been completed by Dec. 1 or when your mare comes into the state if breeding back to a PA stallion, or within 14 days of a public sale. Again, if you need a place to board and foal your mare, please give us a call at 610-444-1050 as space is available. If you are still using paper registrations, please make sure you forward a signed copy of the Code of Ethics, which is attached to the registration form. We will be transitioning to paperless this year.

Wishing you a fantastic start to 2025, and remember, PA is the only place to Breed and Race! Go PA!

PA Yearling Show

Brandywine Polo Club, June 21st, 2025
10:00am – 3:00pm

CATEGORIES, PRIZES & FEES:

- Colts & Geldings
  Non-PA Sired & PA-Sired
- Fillies
  Non-PA Sired & PA-Sired
- Champions
  8 horses, 4 male & 4 fillies

ACCESS THE NOMINATION FORM ON THE HOMEPAGE OF **PABRED.COM**

PRIZES
$1,000 each category
60%, 20%, 12%, 8% plus 6 ribbons
trophy for winner

CHAMPION AWARDS

$1,000 Winner, $500 Reserve Plus Win Trophy
PA Stallion Award – Trophy, Highest total points, schedule: 7,5,4,3,2,1 participant

Champion Breeder – Trophy
Best Turnout - $100 per 4 categories
$50 entry fee, $75 late entry fee after June 1st

Additional incentive payouts for top four highest earning two and three-year-olds

CLEAN-UP
Bring your own shavings (only) & cleanup

JUDGE
Russell Jones

VET & EMT ON SITE
Negative Coggins within past year
EHV1 vaccination past 7-90 days

FOOD
Coffee & Donuts Provided
Lunch Trucks on site

PENNSYLVANIA
HORSE BREEDERS ASSOCIATION

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PA-Bred Fund Statistics: Top Earners

January 1 through December 31, 2024

LEADING EARNERS - TOTAL AWARDS

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Warriors Reward	727,855	199,664	927,519
Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	509,355	225,116	734,471
Steven W. Young Racing LLC	306,806	104,305	411,111
Northview Stallion Station Inc.	0	381,782	381,782
Blackstone Farm LLC	327,656	0	327,656
Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	128,860	185,583	314,443
Glenn E. Brok LLC	240,454	69,649	310,103
Pewter Stable	227,275	63,827	291,102
Arrowwood Farm Inc	226,394	0	226,394
Joseph Imbesi	202,127	0	202,127
St. Omer's Farm	199,378	0	199,378
Sylmar Farm Inc.	173,058	0	173,058

Breeder Name	Breeder	Stallion	Total
Barbara A. Rickline	137,616	17,041	154,657
Chuck Russo	113,607	28,392	141,998
Godstone Farm LLC	129,266	0	129,266
Equivine Farm LLC	128,694	0	128,694
Richard Miller	108,633	19,236	127,869
Y. Jerry Kolybabiuk	118,336	0	118,336
Social Inclusion Partners LLC	0	116,547	116,547
William Solomon VMD	62,878	50,971	113,849
Maria M. Haire	106,094	3,129	109,224
William P. Brady Estate	99,139	0	99,139
Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd.	98,338	0	98,338
Peter Giangiulio	90,509	3,891	94,399

LEADING STALLIONS

Fund Money includes Stallion Awards only

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Uptowncharlybrown	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	505	225,116
Warrior's Reward	Warriors Reward	469	199,664
Weigelia	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	328	179,054
Hoppertunity	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	393	158,015
Uncle Lino	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	287	133,799
Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Partners LLC	209	116,547
Peace and Justice	Steven W. Young Racing LLC	213	104,305
Winchill	Pewter Stable	151	63,827
Jump Start	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	194	48,614
Well Spelled	Godstone Farm LP	127	41,021
Talent Search	Glenn E. Brok LLC	64	38,129
Red Vine	DB Dojo LLC	85	32,519

Stallion Name	Stallion Owner / Manager	No. of Races	Award Total
Il Villano	Chuck Russo	57	28,392
Medallist	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	57	27,200
Eastwood	Glenn E. Brok LLC	73	25,649
Boisterous	Tommy Town Thoroughbreds LLC	125	19,819
Emperor Tiberius	Richard N. Miller	40	19,236
Golddigger's Boy	Luana J. Johnson	62	17,636
Xixixi	Barbara A. Rickline	44	17,041
Lord Shanakill	William J. Solomon VMD	82	16,970
Pat On the Back	Harold Lerner LLC	12	12,973
Rowayton	OXO Equine LLC	20	10,410
Airoforce	Jeffrey Paul Jeans	20	10,039
Bullsbay	Northview Stallion Station Inc.	37	9,737

LEADING HORSES

Fund Money includes: PA-Bred Races, Breeder and Stallion Awards and PA-Bred Owner-Bonus Payments. **Denotes PA-sired*

Horse	Pedigree	Breeder	Races	Stakes	Breeder Award	Stallion Award	Bonus	Total
The Boy's Warrior *	Warrior's Reward - Inciarte	Warriors Reward	4	138,800	64,880	16,220	5,400	225,300
Honorable Win *	Winchill - Honorable Partner	Pewter Stable	3	131,600	52,640	13,160	0	197,400
Smooth B *	Weigelia - Katarica Disco	St. Omer's Farm	5	60,000	84,000	21,000	0	165,000
Confirmed Star *	Uptowncharlybrown - Its My Town	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	11	9,800	96,152	24,038	26,680	156,670
Fierce and Strong *	Hoppertunity - Doubleclickdamouse	Ultra Championship Racing LLC	6	81,020	50,068	12,517	10,570	154,175
Traders Luck *	Weigelia - Deanies Dancer	Sylmar Farm Inc	11	20,000	75,096	18,774	35,640	149,510
Pachelbel *	Hoppertunity - Brilliant Sunshine	Newell Thoroughbreds Ltd	13	19,600	74,742	18,685	33,644	146,671
Morning Matcha	Central Banker - Home Ice	Crane Thoroughbred Services LLC	3	119,880	22,800	0	0	142,680
Capo *	Peace and Justice - Seven Dreams	Steven W Young Racing LLC	10	43,640	47,643	11,911	21,088	124,282
Veeson *	Il Villano - Springingintherein	Chuck Russo	8	9,800	65,417	16,344	28,012	119,573
Party At Sam's *	Weigelia - More Party Girl	Wyn Oaks Farm LLC	14	0	62,565	15,641	35,633	113,840
Foxy Junior	Cuba - Foxy Drummer	Dianne L Stern	5	64,500	25,680	0	9,600	99,780
Twilight Dancer	Tapiture - Moonlight Basin	Warriors Reward	8	58,200	27,160	0	13,900	99,260
Fenton Forever *	Pat On the Back - Fairy Gray	Desmond C Wynter	2	56,400	32,160	8,040	0	96,600
Summary Judgment *	Peace and Justice - Seven Dreams	Steven W Young Racing LLC	10	0	49,090	12,272	35,064	96,426
Crisper	Tapiture - Je Suis Enchantee	Ascoli Piceno Stables LLC	4	75,200	20,860	0	0	96,060
Dropline *	Uncle Lino - Sour Lemon Drop	William P Brady Estate	5	0	49,516	12,379	34,080	95,975
Irish Cork	Flat Out - Circustown Rose	Two-Turn Farm LLC	6	58,800	22,116	0	12,880	93,796
Gordian Knot *	Social Inclusion - Mia	Joseph Imbesi	2	61,620	23,520	5,880	0	91,020
Nature's Candy *	Uncle Lino - Easter Blossom	Y Jerry Kolybabiuk	9	9,800	45,010	11,252	24,664	90,726
Shetalkstomuch *	Uptowncharlybrown - Empire's Gold	Robert Burroughs	12	0	50,787	12,697	26,848	90,332
I Don't See Colors *	Uptowncharlybrown - Another Aleyna	Blackstone Farm LLC	11	0	48,456	12,114	28,440	89,010
True Phenomenon *	Uptowncharlybrown - Dream Come True	Uptowncharlybrown Stud LLC	15	0	46,467	11,617	27,788	85,872
Our Uptown Girl *	Uptowncharlybrown - Fringe Benefits	Barbara A Rickline	11	0	48,220	12,055	25,250	85,525

**Denotes PA-sired*

SCTOBA

South Carolina

Thoroughbred Owners & Breeders Association

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Racing Across the Nation

The number of racing opportunities seem a bit less during the winter months horses often get a winter break. This definitely held true for South Carolina training center graduates as only one, Hollygrove, proved best in a stakes covering the Jan. 20 to Feb. 20 time period.

On Feb. 8 the daughter of Complexity quickly gained the lead in the Valdale Stakes at Turfway Park. She lead the field of 3-year-old fillies around the track and crossed the finish line three-quarters of a length in front.

Hollygrove was prepared for her racing career at the Travis Durr Training Center in St. Matthews.

Debbie Easter keynote speaker

On Saturday, Feb. 15, the South Carolina Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Association held their annual awards banquet at the National Steeplechase Museum in Camden. Debbie Easter was our keynote speaker.

Debbie grew up with horses!! Both her grandparents and parents had farms in horse country outside of Charlottsville, Va. She started showing and foxhunting early in life.

In 2012, Debbie became President of the Virginia Thoroughbred Association and three years later President of the Virginia Equine Alliance. She has been involved in several facets of the industry: owning and running breeding operations and owning racehorses. She has played a major role in developing and enhancing the equine industry in Virginia over the past several years.

MARTIN CAHN AND CHRONICLE-INDEPENDENT

2024 Horse of the Year Honors

A common theme ran through the South Carolina 2024 Horse of the Year honors. All but one were bred by Franklin G. Smith Sr., and all are by Smith's stallion Done Talking. The South Carolina Thoroughbred breeding industry has progressively become smaller over the years but Smith's accomplishment should not be diminished.

The Older 2024 Male Horse of the Year was **Walk Away Joe**. A foal of 2017, Walk Away Joe is out of Theatricality, by Purim. He made 13 starts in 2024, won twice, finished second four times and third twice while earning $49,330. Trained by Jamie Ness, he ran at Charles

MARTIN CAHN AND CHRONICLE-INDEPENDENT

Wylie Perkins, Melissa Smith, Greg Smith and Jack Sadler present Horse of the Year blankets.

Town, Delaware Park and Laurel Park last year. He is owned by Madison Avenue Racing Stable, Morris Kernan and Jagger Racing.

The Older 2024 Filly or Mare Horse of the Year was **Stop the Cap**. The now 5-year-old mare out of Sweet Tea Please, by Kokand, was bred by Goree's son, Greg Smith. She went to the gate 12 times last year, recording five wins, a second and three thirds while leading all South Carolina-bred runners with earnings of $125,250. Stop the Cap is also owned by Greg and trained by his uncle, Hammy Smith. She made all of her starts in Maryland. Stop the Cap started off 2025 with two seconds in two starts, and has lifetime earnings of $159,620.

Three-Year-Old Colt or Gelding 2024 Horse of the Year was **Coronation Time.** The son of the E Dubai mare Crown Me Now went to the starting gate 15 times last year recording a win, two seconds and three thirds. He also has finished second in his first three starts this year. Coronation Time is owned by our former SCTOBA President, Lee Christian.

Done Talking made it a clean sweep as sire of Horses of the Year when his daughter **Yumyum Eat Em Up** was named Champion Three-Year-Old Filly of the Year. She is out of Stollen, by Grand Slam. Yumyum Eat Em Up made 17 starts and found her way to the winner's circle three times, while finishing second six times and third twice. The offspring of Done Talking love to run!! She earned $74,215, ranking her the second-leading state-bred earner of the year. Bred by Goree Smith, Yumyum Eat Em Up is owned by Baxter Racing. Her trainer is Mario Serey.

Naturally, the 2024 Breeder of the Year was **Franklin "Goree" Smith**. He is the owner of the Elloree Training Center and got his first horse in 1972. His work has encompassed all elements of the Thoroughbred industry – from foals, to horses in training, to breeding stock.

In 2024, Goree was the breeder of 21 horses who made starts at various tracks. Together, these horses earned $585,232. This is the 13th time he has earned this award.

South Carolina-trained winners

Horse	*Training Center*	*Date*	*Track*	*Type of Race*
Anakarina	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	01/20/25	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Smile Mon	Aiken - Rebecca Hurt	01/24/25	Aqueduct	Starter Allowance
Mywifeknowsitall	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	01/26/25	Gulfstream Park	Allowance
Dropline	Rentz Farm Training Ctr.	01/27/25	Parx Racing	Allowance
Flying Mohawk	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	01/30/25	Fair Grounds	Allowance
A Western Yarn	Aiken - Legacy Stable	01/31/25	Tampa Bay	Starter Allowance
C'Est Cheese	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	01/31/25	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Bunny Hop	Rentz Farm Training Ctr.	02/02/25	Tampa Bay	Allowance
Sansa Ariel	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/06/25	Penn National	Allowance
Kashmir Witch	Rentz Farm Training Ctr.	02/07/25	Penn National	Maiden Special Weight
Boss Like Beth	Rentz Farm Training Ctr.	02/07/25	Penn National	Allowance
Ride to Remember	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/07/25	Charles Town	Maiden Special Weight
Great Navigator	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/07/25	Gulfstream	Allowance
Candy Crase	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/08/25	Laurel Park	Maiden Special Weight
HOLLYGROVE	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/08 25	Turfway Park	Valedale S
Maggy's Palace	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/08/25	Aqueduct	Allowance
Hoist the Gold	Travis Durr Training Ctr.	02/13/25	Fair Grounds	Allowance
Wildly Speeding	Rentz Farm Training Ctr.	02/15/25	Gulfstream	Maiden Special Weight
Noble Eagle	Tavis Durr Training Ctr.	02/15/25	Sam Houston	Maiden Special Weight
Pudd'n N Pie	Aiken - Cary Frommer	02/19/25	Penn National	Allowance

VIRGINIA

D. WAYNE LUKAS'S AMERICAN PROMISE CAPTURES $500,000 VIRGINIA DERBY — ON DIRT — AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Colonial Downs conducted its first ever 3-day, all-dirt spring meet March 13-15 highlighted by the $500,000 Virgina Derby on closing day — the first Kentucky Derby points race at the New Kent track. ABC Stables' American Promise proved much the best to win by 7¾ lengths over Render Judgment, earning 50 points and all but securing a spot in the "Run for the Roses" on the first Saturday in May.

Trained by Hall of Famer D. Wayne Lukas, American Promise set a track record, covering 1 1/8 miles in 1:46.41 under jockey Nik Juarez.

"I didn't want to use my horse early but I knew I had to get forward position with how the track has been playing," Juarez said. "I'm just a guy who is lucky enough to be named to ride Mr. Lukas' horses. To be heading to the Kentucky Derby for him is a dream come true. American Promise is doing so good. He proved himself out there today."

After breaking in second behind Bob Baffert's Getaway Car, American Promise pressured the odds-on favorite who clocked hot opening fractions of :23.12 and :45.20. Render Judgment got away well from the gate and settled in behind the leaders, who began to pull away from the field down the backstretch. In the turn, American Promise bore down on Getaway Car, headed that foe with a 3/8 of a mile left, and never looked back, adding to his lead down the stretch. Render Judgment ran hard late but could never menace the winner, while Virginia-bred Omaha Omaha, who came from the back of the pack, finished third in a blanket finish. Getaway Car held on for fourth over the late-running Studlydoright.

American Promise, who is by Justify and out of the Tapit mare Tapella, now has a career record of 9-2-1-1 with $444,874 in earnings.

Derby Day marked the first time the New Kent track was sold out in advance. An enthusiastic sun-drenched crowd of 8,500 enjoyed 70-degree temperatures while Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin presented the Derby trophy and First Lady Suzanne Youngkin presented Virginia Oaks hardware.

American Promise wins the 22nd running of the Virginia Derby, its first contested over the dirt track (Coady Media).

FONDLY CROSSES FIRST IN $250,000 VIRGINIA OAKS

Making just her second career start in the $250,000 Virginia Oaks, Eclipse Thoroughbred Partners' Fondly passed the class test, wearing down her front-running foe Anonima late in the stretch to win by a half-length over the late-kicking Early On.

Trained by Graham Motion and piloted by Irad Ortiz, Jr., Fondly covered the 1 1/16 miles in 1:42.51.

After breaking sharply, Ortiz settled Fondly outside the eager Anonima who led the ranks through opening quarters of :23.49 and :46.58. The fillies kept close company through the turn, but in the stretch Anonima spurted away from Fondly. While their chasers You'll Be Back and Icona Mama began to tire, Fondly kept finding more and doggedly ran down Anonima, wrestling away the advantage in the deep stretch and holding off the late heroics of Early On. Scoring in her first Oaks prep, Fondly earned 50 qualifying points, all but ensuring a spot in the Longines Kentucky Oaks (G1) on Friday, May 2 at Churchill Downs.

Fondly prevails over Early On in the Virginia Oaks (Coady Media).

Virginia-certified Book'em Danno, who spent his VA residency at Gracie Bloodstock in Middleburg, wins the Boston Handicap (Coady Media).

Sheilahs Warcloud edges Mary Q in the Stellar Wind Handicap. The winner spent her Virginia residency at Amy Moore's South Gate Farm in Millwood (Coady Media).

"It was only her second start, and we knew she could get the distance, but I didn't want to use her energy early if I didn't have to," Ortiz said. "Last time she missed the break a little bit, but today she broke good and put me in a good position."

Bred in Kentucky by Brereton C Jones, Fondly is by Upstart and out of the Istan mare Lifetime Memory. Perfect in two starts, Fondly's win in the Virginia Oaks built her bankroll to $169,200.

With Virginia Derby Day concluding the historic three-day spring meet, Colonial Downs' expanded 2025 racing season will continue with 41 days of live racing each Wednesday through Saturday from July 9 through September 13.

MILLION DOLLAR EARNING BOOK'EM DANNO WINS $150,000 BOSTON HANDICAP AT COLONIAL DOWNS

Virginia Derby week stakes kicked off March 14 with two Virginia-restricted overnight handicaps, and Atlantic Six Racing's millionaire Book'em Danno stole the show, starting off his 4-year-old campaign with a win in the $150,000 Boston Handicap.

Trained by Derek Ryan and piloted by Paco Lopez, Book'em Danno stalked Celtic Contender through quick opening fractions and proved best of the trio of older males, pulling away at the sixteenth pole to win by 2 1/2 lengths over the late-charging Repo Rocks. Book'em Danno covered the seven furlongs in 1:20.03, just a touch slower than the 1:19.86 track record set by Mufasa last year.

With his win in the Boston, the Woody Stephens (G1) winner now sports six stakes scores on his resume. From 12 lifetime races, the New Jersey-bred has won 7 with 3 seconds and 1 third to tally $1,098,125.

With the runner-up finish, Double B Racing Stables' Repo Rocks became the latest million dollar earning Virginia-bred. The 7-year-old Tapiture gelding entered the handicap needing $4,000 to eclipse the mark and he departed New Kent with a bankroll of $1,024,246. Repo Rocks, with 28 top three career finishes, was bred by Mrs. C. Oliver Iselin III.

In the Stellar Win Handicap, Sheilahs Warcloud pulled off the minor upset over seven older fillies and mares. Owned and trained by Justin Nixon, the Maryland-bred — who broke her maiden locally — relished the long stretch, running down the top two betting favorites to win by a neck over Mary Q. Post-time favorite Binnie hung on for third.

Weston Hamilton, who earlier in the day recorded his first win ever at Colonial atop Eagle Point Farm's Virginia-bred Set Ablaze, was in the irons as Sheilahs Warcloud covered the six furlongs in 1:09.14. She improved her career record to 11-4-5-1 and now sports $266,780 in career earnings.

VIRGINIA-CERTIFIED HORSES THRIVE AT COLONIAL SPRING MEET

Ten different Virginia-Certified horses reached the winners circle over the meet's three days via a series of Virginia-Restricted races that offered increased purses. Among the winners — and respective farms where they spent a 6-month Commonwealth residency — were Country Life Farm's Divine Works (Kolb Racing Stable in Middleburg), Lillian Klesaris's Eastbostonbenny (CRE-Run Farm in Doswell), J R Sanchez Racing Stable's El Junior (Rofe Racing at Hickory Tree Farm in Middleburg), Anthony Aguirre's Fly Pelican (Fox Meadow Farm in Middleburg), Go-To-Toga Racing's Viscious Gossip (Ingleside Training in Montpelier Station), No Guts No Glory Farm's Green Eyed Monster (DMC Racing Stable in Berryville), Warrior's Reward's Ballad of Warrior (Gracie Bloodstock in Middleburg) and Hibiscus Stables & Steve Klesaris's Village Person (Valvo Racing & Training in Middleburg). For details on this lucrative bonus program, visit vabred.org.

VIRGINIA THOROUGHBRED ASSOCIATION

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Visit www.vabred.org–the best source for Virginia breeding and racing news

For more information on the Virginia Breeders Fund or Virginia Stakes Program, please contact the VTA.

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Virginia Breeders Fund

West Virginia
THOROUGHBRED BREEDERS ASSOCIATION
Newsletter April 2025

For the Runcos, it's not just a job, it's an adventure

By Jeff Gilleas

Building and managing an effective team is vital today in the highly competitive world of Thoroughbred racing.

It takes decision making, good communication and an atmosphere of trust.

Jeff Runco and his wife Susan have a clear purpose, contend with multiple high profile owners, amid their own expectations, and collaborate on the process for getting successful results.

Coastal Mission's Grade 3 win in the Forty Niner Stakes Oct. 26, 2024, was a highlight to Jeff's brilliant career (4,812 wins and counting), while acknowledging stable gems Coastal Mission and spouse Susan.

I sat down with half of the team to discuss West Virginia breeding and racing, hoping to gain Susan's perspective on the dynamic duos impressive guidebook to prosperity.

Q) Sports writers recurrently use the phrase, "there is no I in team." Obviously, there is no I in Runco, so how does the coupling of two Type 'A' personalities unite to deliver the goods?

A) We work closely together in an attempt to fend-off problems before they even materialize. Accepting of the premise that horses are individuals governs Jeff's creativity at the track, and my handling of them at the farm. As knowledgeable riders, we can physically feel when something is wrong with a horse, and if we need to mentally adjust their mindset or schedules. We are compulsively detailed oriented.

Q) Coastal Mission has become another West Virginia-bred millionaire. After a dominating campaign in 2023, where he won eight races at his home track of Charles Town, the focus shifted in 2024-2025 to tougher out-of-town competition. What was the reasoning behind that bold initiative?

A) Coastal Mission is a unique and gifted horse. No superior markings, no distinguishing arch to his carriage, just a pure athlete. Jeff trained his multiple stakes-winning brother Lewisfield for owner Linda Zang, and as a beneficiary of that talented gene pool afforded us the opportunity to expand his versatility beyond just sprinting. Unfortunately for local fans we opted to skip last year's Sam Huff Breeders Classic. The two-week time frame between races forced the Forty Niner Stakes to become our primary option. That difficult choice was made somewhat easier by the presence of Coastal Mission's half-sister at the farm by Jack Christopher. Jeff and I agreed that the value of the mare and her daughter would be greatly enhanced if Coastal Mission continues to contend in graded stakes company.

Q) Nobody likes to lose, but in this game you are fortunate to win one out of five races. I once heard one of the all-time winningest trainers say he would rather be lucky than smart. What plan of action does the Coleswood Farm brain trust implement to achieve maximum results?

A) Luck is always welcomed, but for us the answer is hard work, dedication and good owners. That combination has enabled us to have runners like Coastal Mission and Muad'dib. Everyone in this business works hard, but not everyone possesses the desire to keep pressing through the difficult

times. Success comes to those who place their horses correctly, and utilize time-off as their greatest asset.

Q) With two West Virginia-bred millionaires to your credit (Coastal Mission and Muad'dib) is there still a burning desire to pursue this challenging way of life?

A) When you have horses like them in your barn, every day is a good day. We have discussed our personal lives moving forward, but for now that is a conversation for another time. Outside of West Virginia, Coastal Mission and Muad'dib may not be headline news, but in barn 13, they are admired as consummate professionals. They thrive in our busy atmosphere. Jeff and I were fortunate to share a special moment in the winner's circle with family members Robbie, Lauren, Mackenzie and Ryan, who gathered for the trophy presentation following the Forty Niner Stakes. In this business you grab normalcy wherever and whenever you can.

Q) Aftercare is near and dear to my heart. Could you elaborate on post-race plans that you and Jeff formulate for horses in your care when ready for retirement?

A) Over the years we have dedicated a tremendous amount of time and effort placing horses when their careers at the track are finished. Many of our former runners have taken up second chance opportunities as hunters, eventers and dressage horses. One of my best friends (Anita Antonucci) has taken many of my favorite race mares from the track and successfully reholmed them. High profile horses that Jeff and I campaigned found dignity at Virginia Thoroughbred Project in Montpelier Station (North Atlantic), while Breeders Classic winner Sea Rescue struts his stuff as a successful show hunter. You'll notice that many of our clients have been with us for years. It is because they share our love for the game, our business model, and particularly our support of aftercare programs. We all recognize that horses give us great joy and deserve to be happy. One of my greatest pleasures in life is to hear triumphant stories of success from individuals that have acquired horses from our farm.

◆

Susan and Jeff Runco are a thinking equestrian and former jockey on a mission.

As others rise and fall, our couple seems to repeatedly land in the upper echelon of thriving equine entrepreneurs.

Intense preparation, similar to the kind the Runcos son Jeremy received at the United States Naval Academy, is just one enviable metric that has helped determine the trajectory of this family's life.

Team Runco's bold decision to forego the local gravy train for tougher competition has commissioned West Virginia breeding and racing to no longer accept being a proverbial tree falling in complacent local woods.

On Sunday evening, March 10, Coastal Mission was proclaimed back-to-back winner of the WVTBA Horse of the Year Award.

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Chasing
Brought to you by the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation

Longtime Montpelier director Justin Wiley joins TGSF board

By Betsy Burke Parker

Justin Wiley is a natural for the job, say fellow steeplechase foundation trustees, with decades of business experience, years at the helm of one of the circuit's most successful jump meets, a lifetime of equestrian knowledge and a Hall of Fame level horse pedigree that reaches back multiple generations.

The newest member of the Temple Gwathmey Steeplechase Foundation board of trustees, Wiley joined the group this winter. From his real estate office in Orange, Virginia, Wiley says he "looks forward to helping out."

A lifelong rider and avid foxhunter, Wiley has owned steeplechase horses – alone and in partnership, for more than 30 years. His steeplechase knowledge runs deeper than sideline support: he spent almost two decades as co-director – with Brooke Royster, of Virginia's Montpelier Steeplechase Foundation that runs the Montpelier Races in November at the former home of U.S. President James Madison.

He stepped away from Montpelier in 2020, and has been helping "on the horse side of things" at Charlottesville's Foxfield meet since last year.

Joining the Gwathmey foundation was a natural, Wiley says. "(TGSF president Kathy Neilson) asked me. Yes was an easy answer."

Trace Wiley's trajectory

Wiley's horse involvement predates his 1964 birth by many generations.

His father, Hugh Wiley, was an American and worldwide show jumping circuit darling, winning prizes in almost every title

jumper classic in the U.S., England and Europe.

Wiley's mother, Serena, was born and raised in south Yorkshire, England. She was a skilled rider and an avid foxhunter.

Her father, Roger Lumley, was the 11th Earl of Scarbrough, a British conservative party politician and a British army general. Serena – more formally, Lady Jane Lily Serena Lumley, met U.S. Equestrian Team show jumper Hugh Wiley when he was campaigning in England in the late 1950s.

They married in 1963 and had three sons. Justin is oldest.

After living in England a short time, Hugh and Serena Wiley moved back to Maryland in 1963. They lived and worked out of his great-grandfather's farm in Towson. Respected hunter-jumper show rider, trainer and breeder, Howard Firor was elected to the Maryland Horse Show Hall of Fame.

They moved to historic Oak Hill Farm in Palmyra, Virginia -- former Deep Run Hunt territory, in 1969.

Hugh Wiley rode on the 1956 and 1960 U.S. Olympic show jumping teams, but he stepped back from competition when he got married. He was a sought-after hunter judge, and the Wileys bred top show hunter-jumpers.

Before Justin was born, Hugh and Serena Wiley spent a lot of time in Argentina, importing thoroughbreds to their Virginia farm for retraining to sell as show horses.

"Dad was always a strong proponent of thoroughbreds in the show ring," Justin Wiley recalls his father's ardor for what he called the perfect athletic package – movement, athleticism and brains.

Justin Wiley and his brothers, naturally, grew up riding under their parents' careful supervision. "My father and mother taught us all to ride from an early age," Wiley recalls. "But dad was pretty strict as an instructor. (Another horse show hall of famer,) Ellie Wood Keith Baxter was nicer about it," Wiley says, when he got lessons with her.

Hugh and Serena conducted summer schooling sessions for upper level riders at Oak Hill.

Justin Wiley graduated from St. Annes Belfield school in Charlottesville, then studied history at Roanoke College.

After school, Wiley worked 1986 to 1991 for John Kluge's Albemarle Farms. He served as assistant curator of the world-renowned carriage collection for of the late media mogul, one-time owner of the Harlem Globetrotters and once the richest man in America.

Wiley was also director of coaching for the Stratford Hall coaching weekend 1988 to 2004. Stratford Hall is Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee's ancestral home in Virginia's Westmoreland County.

Wiley established the Blue Sky Drives charity coaching event that ran in Charlottesville 1995 to 1998.

The driving link had come through his father: Hugh Wiley was good friends with four-in-hand drivers, and steeplechase owners, the late Frolic Weymouth, Phyllis Wyeth and Marshall Jenney.

Justin Wiley is a member of the exclusive Coaching Club, a New York carriage group formed in 1875.

Moving into real estate sales was a natural progression after his museum career, Wiley says. He worked for Royer and McGavock and Hugh Wiley Realty Ltd. 1991 to 1999, then was an associate broker with Frank Hardy Sotheby's 1999 to 2016.

Wiley and his brother, Peter, established Wiley Real Estate in Charlottesville in 2016. Wiley serves as the group's principal broker in the firm that sells residential, farms and raw land. The Wileys also consults seller and buyers on conservation easements and other open space protection vehicles.

In 2000, Wiley wed Nancy Massie, daughter of sporting artist Sandra Massie Forbush and step-daughter of longtime Old Dominion Hounds master and steeplechase official Gus Forbush.

The Keswick Hunt link – Nancy was joint-master for eight years – gave Wiley a close association with Dr. Reynolds Cowles, which in turn led to his involvement with Foxfield.

"I'm so happy to hear that Justin is going on the Gwathmey Foundation board," says Foxfield board chair Cowles. "He'll be a good addition.

"(Foxfield director Jack Sanford and I) have known Justin for a long time both through foxhunting at Keswick and working with him when he was clerk of course at Montpelier. This past year he joined our advisory board at Foxfield and has become an integral member of our race committee.

"Justin brings good experience in the running of a race meeting coupled with his knowledge of land and people in addition to being a horse owner.

"We're very grateful for his help at Foxfield."

Jumping at the chance

Wiley says his father only rode a few steeplechase races, and that he didn't really want his sons to pursue race riding. But Justin Wiley has long been involved in racing as an owner.

Trainer Kathy Neilson congratulates Gerard Galligan after winning a maiden claiming hurdle at Foxfield Fall Races in 2022, with Hard Game LLC's Hard Game. ©Douglas Lees. *©Douglas Lees*

In 1989, he had a 1/18th share of a horse called Eighteen Wheels. The syndicate was put together by Virginia Thoroughbred Association executive director Debbie Easter with trainer Woodberry Payne.

Wiley had a few wins with trainers Kathy Neilson and Ricky Hendriks in the '90s; his biggest was the New Jersey Hunt Cup in 1997 with Nuage D'Irlande, ridden by Michael Traurig and trained by Neilson.

His Local Treasure won four hurdle races and more than $65,000, 2002 to 2006 for Hendriks.

"When Nancy and I got married, the focus changed to foxhunting and children." Wiley moved away from racing but now, he's back in the game. When Nancy stepped down from being master at Keswick, Wiley put together another partnership – Hard Game LLC.

"We started about four years ago. It includes Mike Massie, Rob Farmer, David Perdue and myself as managing partner. We currently have five horses, four of which are in training with Kathy," Wiley says, including dual hurdle winner last fall, L'Avvacato.

Wiley was brought onto the Gwathmey Foundation board of trustees by president Kathy Neilson. The board of trustees has met just once since he joined.

"Our current project is funding new safety vests for the active riders," Wiley explains that the foundation is working closely with NSA on several safety initiatives targeted toward the jockey colony. "When Kathy asked me to get involved, I agreed readily because I love steeplechasing, I love the sport. I love the tradition."

HUGH WILEY AND NAUTICAL

Wiley family equestrian tradition

Born in 1927 in New Haven, Connecticut, Justin Wiley's father, Hugh, was an Olympic show jumper, Pan American Games gold medalist and a member of the Maryland Horse Show Hall of Fame.

Wiley studied at the University of Maryland. He worked as an engineer and served in the U.S. Navy.

Hugh Wiley represented the U.S. in the 1956 Olympics held in Stockholm, Sweden. He was the top American finisher, 11th with Trail Guide ahead of Bill Steinkraus and Night Owl in 13th, and Frank Chapot on Belair, 27th.

Wiley won team and individual gold at the 1959 Pan Am Games in Chicago.

He rode at the Rome Olympics in 1960, seventh individually with Master William. George Morris was the highest-placed U.S. rider that year, fourth aboard Sinjon.

In 1955, Wiley was paired with a western-bred quarter horse cross, a palomino originally known as Injun Joe, renamed Nautical. Notoriously sensitive and tough to ride, Nautical flourished under the steady hand of Wiley. Together the pair wowed the show jumping world – they won a dozen Nations Cup titles and every top jumper class around the globe.

In addition to sometimes theatrically rushing his fences, Nautical had a fun, trademark jumping style – he'd flip his flaxen tail in the air as he set down from a fence.

The bigger the jump, the bigger his tail would swish straight up as he landed. Disney made a movie about it – The Horse With The Flying Tail.

Nautical retired at age 17 in 1960, dying six years later at Wiley's farm in Maryland.

Hugh Wiley died in 1999 at age 72 in Palmyra, Virginia.

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10 years ago

■ Jim Gagliano, president and CEO of The Jockey Club, grew up in New Jersey and turned dream summer jobs at Monmouth Park into a launching pad for his rise in the Thoroughbred industry. His journey included a vast array of experiences, and stints in Pennsylvania and Maryland, before taking his current position in 2010.

■ Virginia-breds Valid, Long On Value and Stellar Wind each won Grade 3 stakes in February. Gulfstream Park was the location for the Edward P. Evans-bred Valid's win in the Fred W. Hooper and Snow Lantern Thoroughbreds-bred Long On Value's score in the Canadian Turf, while Keswick Stables and Stonestreet Thoroughbred Holdings-bred Stellar Wind recorded her first stakes victory in Santa Anita's Santa Ysabel. All three sold as yearlings – Valid for $500,000, Stellar Wind for $86,000 and Long On Value for $3,000.

LYDIA A. WILLIAMS

Post Time photo titled "Grumpy Old Men" featured retired Graham Motion trainees, 16-year-old Better Talk Now (left) and 27-year-old Gala Spinaway, on a snowy morning at Fair Hill.

■ The legacy of longtime New Jersey horsewoman Ramona Barney, who died the previous September at age 86, lived on through the 5-year-old mare Amblin Easy. A fourth-generation Barney-bred by New Jersey sire Private Interview, Amblin Easy won in allowance company at Parx for her new connections, LC Racing and trainer Butch Reid, who claimed her for $25,000 less than a month after Barney's death.

Amblin Easy made her first stakes starts that May and June, finishing third in both, and was eventually retired to the LC Racing broodmare band. Her first two foals are stakes winner Ninetyprcentmaddie and stakes-placed Ninetypercentbrynn, who combined earned nearly $900,000 through 2024.

■ A look back at auction results in 2014 saw three Mid-Atlantic-breds sell for more than a million: broodmare prospect Princess of Sylmar ($3.1 million), broodmare Her Smile ($1.5 million) and a Brushwood-bred yearling by Bernardini out of Mushka named Crowned for $1.2 million. The two most expensive Mid-Atlantic-sired yearlings, each bringing six figures, were from the first crop of Country Life Farm sire Friesan Fire.

Crowned never raced, but her third foal for her buyer, Godolphin, is 2025 Fountain of Youth-G2 winner Sovereignty.

75 years ago

■ Joe Palmer gave an update on Alfred Vanderbilt's champion filly Bed o' Roses, adding: "I persist in regarding [her] as a Maryland product even if she was foaled in Perris, Calif.

"[She] grew reasonably during her winter at Sagamore Farm, and now stands about 15.1 1/2. According to her trainer, Bill Winfrey, she weighs about 960 pounds, and she's at racing condition."

The Kentucky Derby was still on the filly's radar, of which Palmer was hopeful:

"... if you've never done it, you can't imagine how tiresome it is to write, every year, 'Regret is the only filly to win the Kentucky Derby.' It would amount almost to a vacation if next year we could write Regret and Bed o' Roses are the only fillies to win the Kentucky Derby."

After a juvenile campaign of 21 starts which started in February and ended in November, Bed o' Roses, a daughter of Rosemont and the Discovery mare Good Thing, didn't make her first 3-year-old start until June, missing the Triple Crown races.

■ Humphrey Finney traveled to Middleburg, Va., for the sale of William Ziegler's breeding stock, which he recounted in The Editor's Saddle-Bag, Feb. 18: "This affair was held by Fasig-Tipton Company this afternoon, and was a first class success. The grand old mare Marching Home easily topped the vendue, going to Dave Evans of New Jersey, along with another famous star of days gone by, Esposa.

The two mares were 18. Marching Home had produced three stakes winners from her first three foals, all by home stallion Espino and foaled in Virginia at Ziegler's Burrland Farm, including Belmont Stakes winner Bounding Home. Esposa, by Espino, was champion handicap mare in 1937 and 1938, won 15 stakes, and was a stakes producer.

Marching Home's 2-year-old filly that year was by Burrland Farm stakes winner and sire Wait a Bit (also by Espino). Named Sailing Home, she became the granddam of Bold Reasoning, the sire of Seattle Slew.

■ A census conducted by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association disclosed "there were 177 farms in Maryland where Thoroughbreds are raised, with from one to 30 or so mares to produce them. These farms are located in 18 of Maryland's 23 counties and embrace an acreage of 46,797, or an average of 265 to the farm. Accepting the most conservative of valuations, this would make the real estate alone involved in the proposition worth around $10 million. Add the value of the 70 stallions and 825 broodmares, together with about 500 yearlings and miscellaneous other Thoroughbreds domiciled on the farms and not reckoned as horses in training, and one has a pretty healthy investment in Thoroughbreds in the state."

50 years ago

■ Bernard P. "Bernie" Bond, Maryland's most active "halterman" during the 1950s and 1960s, and three times Maryland's top trainer with his claiming stable, saw the numbers decrease as he got older – from more than 60 horses down to a baker's dozen in 1975 (eight of which were 2-year-olds). But the quality was way up.

SKIP BALL

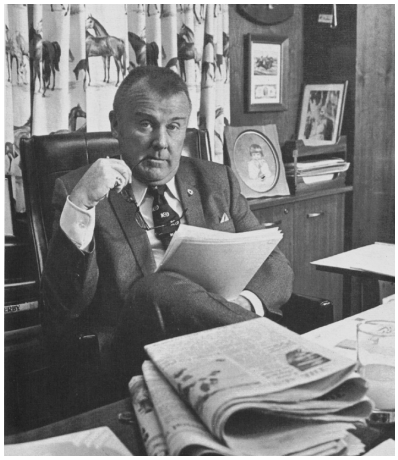
Stakes-winning siblings Gala Double and Gala Lil, by Spring Double out of Right as Rain, by *Rasper II, bred by Glade Valley Farms, were the headliners. The "gala" runners raced for Bond's principal owner Gertrude Leviton, whose husband, Leonard, was an Atlantic City beer distributor.

"They're the best owners a man could have," said the 58-year-old trainer. "They never bug me, never tell me where to run. It's almost like I own the horses myself." The Levitons had a top 2-year-old prospect, an unnamed colt by Silent Screen out of Martinetta, the dam of Rollicking, also purchased from Glade Valley. "I don't even know if he can run," said Bond. "Never done any more than gallop him. But I'll say this for him – he's the handsomest damn horse I've ever had in my barn."

The Silent Screen colt was Gala Harry. While he didn't win in two starts at 2, he eventually won 13 races, three stakes, and placed in five other stakes while earning $172,518. The Levitons stayed with Bond until he retired in 1993, just weeks before his death, and left their horses, including multiple stakes winner Gala Spinaway, in the barn of Bond's young assistant, Graham Motion.

■ Chick Lang, Pimlico's 49-year-old general manager, was the son of Charles "Chick" Lang, who rode Reigh Count to win the 1928 Kentucky Derby. His maternal grandfather, John P. Mayberry, trained Judge Himes to win the 1903 Derby. "So," said Lang, "you can see from my pedigree that I've got Kentucky Derby top and bottom." Lang sat down with Snowden Carter to talk about how a high-school dropout became Pimlico's top executive, how he quit the business for a time early in his career after being a jock's agent to become a car salesman, until he was offered the book for a young rider named Bill Hartack.

"All of a sudden I was a successful man," said Lang. "Believe me, it wasn't being smart. It was being in the right place at the right time. In a word, I got lucky."


SKIP BALL

■ Brandywine Stable, whose runners – the likes of Greek Money, Cochise and Open Fire – carried the familiar blue and gold silks around most of the major tracks in America, was under the management of Donnie Ross Jr. following the death of his father Donald Ross, who founded the stable adjacent to Delaware Park in the 1930s.

"The guiding hands of Brandywine Stable today – Donnie Ross and his trainer Joe Clancy – were both born and raised on the same farm, just a few miles up Limestone Road from Delaware Park – the farm which Clancy's father managed for Donnie's father for more than 40 years."

25 years ago

■ George Strawbridge had signed on as president of the National Steeplechase Association a year earlier– a volunteer job he freely said he didn't want. He sat down for a conversation with Joe Clancy to assess his presidency and the changing face of the NSA.

Saying he took the job because of his love of the sport, Strawbridge was working to create a unified industry. Asked about how big steeplechasing could get, he responded: "It always will be small, but it has the advantage of being a unique sport. Its uniqueness can make it grow bigger and expand. By unique I mean the absolute enthusiastic reception to the sport in areas that have basically never seen it."

■ Running to his million-dollar looks and high-profile connections, Pennsylvania-bred High Yield added a second Grade 1 victory to his resume with his determined run in Gulfstream's Fountain of Youth.

Bred by Betty Moran's Brushwood Stable, the son of Storm Cat out of the Forty Niner mare Scoop the Gold sold for $1,050,000 at the Keeneland July Yearling sale, making him the most expensive Mid-Atlantic-bred sold at auction in 1998. Trained by Wayne Lukas for Bob and Beverly Lewis, Michael Tabor and Mrs. John Magnier, High Yield won Saratoga's Hopeful Stakes-G1 at 2. In 11 starts, his earnings were just over $700,000.

■ Honors for breeder, stallion and broodmare of the year were announced by the Maryland Horse Breeders Association, with Robert Meyerhoff, the Mid-Atlantic region's leading breeder and ranked 25th nationally, recognized for the fifth time in eight years; Country Life Farm's Allen's Prospect won his second title; and Meyerhoff's Dynamic Star, dam of 1999 Ohio Derby-G2 winner Stellar Brush, earned top broodmare honors.

■ Six Mid-Atlantic-breds sold for as much as $1 million in 1999, two for at least $2 million. Not For Love's 2-year-old son La Salle Street (bred in Maryland by Katherine Willson) was the most expensive Mid-Atlantic-sired horse when sold to Demi O'Bryne for $2 million at the Keeneland April sale. The Robert Meyerhoff-bred Retrospective, a 1992 Maryland-bred daughter of Easy Goer and half-sister to Broad Brush, topped regional-breds, selling for $2.9 million to John Magnier while in foal to Deputy Minister.

A Box for Legends

Janon Fisher Jr. and III take a moment before a spring timber race at Maryland's Grand National meet. The classic tack trunk, still in the Fisher family, went racing with the likes of Maryland Hunt Cup hero Mountain Dew and held all of the essentials as detailed by Julie Fisher Colhoun below.

April is time for the timber-racing trunk to be used. This trunk, an old Louis Vuitton one, lined with muslin with a pin-up lady inside the top and a photo of Blockade only came out for timber racing. This trunk was definitely off limits except for my father, Janon and Walter (Tyndall). His job was to see that all was "at the ready" for race day. The trunk was first to come off the van and last to go in. Its contents: colors, saddle, elastic girth, overgirth, bridle (maybe two, always with an Irish martingale), rubber saddle pad, weight pad, bucket with scraper and real sponge, foot pick, Walter's special brushes – a soft-bristled and dandy brush. A linen rub rag and a burlap one. A roll of cotton, shipping bandages, cold-water bandages, saddle soap and sponge, Vaseline (for the horse's nose) and Bigeoil, a wool blanket, rain sheet and a short holey one, this one was a fairly new addition.

Photo courtesy of Julie Fisher Colhoun, daughter of Janon Fisher Jr.

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Other 2024 leaders include: WORD ON A WING ($347,718) won at Parx and on the board in 4 of 6 starts; TEMPEST RISING ($149,564) 3 wins at Parx; 2YO winner by 4 3/4 lengths VANAKA; back-to-back 2024 winner PRINCE OF CHILL; etc.

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